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WOMAN'S WORK IN THE WORLD.

DURING the short Whitsuntide vacation the place of Parliament has been to some extent supplied by the meetings of the Social Science Congress. Certainly, the readers of Parliamentary debates seldom find such interesting matter for their perusal as the speech with which the proceedings at the association in question were opened by Lord Brougham. In his masterly review of the chief events which have taken

place since the congress last met, the most varied subjects were naturally introduced—such as the loss sustained by England in the death of Prince Albert; the progress of foreign countries in social science; the political changes specially noticeable in Russia, Italy, and France; the civil war in America, and the unsoundness of Democracy as demonstrated by the origin and conduct of that contest; several projects of law reform which have lately been intro-

duced in England; and, finally, the position of women in this country and the means of employment open to them.

The "woman question," as it may be called, has always been a favourite, or at least a prominent, one at these social-science meetings. Here deputations of ladies attend, and ladies holding official position in connection with ladies' societies make speeches or read papers. The "woman question" is still in its agitative period, and, possibly, will never get out of it. Indeed,



"THE STAR OF THE SOUTH," IN THE NETHERLANDS COURT, INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.—SEE PAGE 107.

no attempt is seriously made to establish a principle in connection with it. No one, except one or two female enthusiasts who have found no followers, says that women are qualified by Nature to fill all such positions as hitherto have been reserved exclusively for men; nor has any full explanation been given as to what employments are considered specially fitted for women. For our own part, feeling sure that men would prove themselves inferior to women if they sought to compete with them on what has hitherto been considered the women's own particular ground, we are also convinced that women will fail if they invade in too great numbers the territory occupied in particular and almost entirely by men. "Woman," according to the great poet of the day, "is the weaker man," and there is nothing insulting in such a definition, for it is equally true, and Tennyson would probably be the first to allow it, that man is the coarser woman. We cannot fancy a good battalion of female infantry; but, on the other hand, it is quite certain that women make the best hospital nurses. If we look at the history of religion, politics, science, literature, and art, we find that women, though in the mass far more religious than men, have produced no great apostles, and very few enthusiasts in the shape of martyrs; that they have done as little in science as if that region—like that of politics—had been entirely closed to them; and that in literature and art they have only attained eminence in certain departments, which may now be said to belong to them almost as much as certain departments in real life.

We do not think it can be fairly said that women in general have been prevented either by prejudice or by the nature of their education from becoming either great authors, great painters, or great composers; but, from *Mdme. de Staël* to *Miss Brontë* and *Miss Evans*, how many great authors have they produced? With the exception of *Rosa Bonheur* they have produced no great painters. They have produced no composers at all above the rank of drawing-room song-writers.

A writer in the *Times* expressed something like surprise the other day, in an article on Lord Brougham's speech, that although so many women devoted themselves to the study of music so few had ever distinguished themselves as composers. He pointed out at the same time that they never attained the highest excellence in cookery—an art which he appeared to class with music, and to which he might have joined tapestry; for certainly, taking the original designs and the embroidery together, no woman could have conceived and executed the tapestry for which *Raphael* drew the immortal cartoons. Indeed, at the celebrated tapestry manufactory at *Gobelins* nearly all the persons employed in the present day, and all the chiefs of departments, without exception, are men. Probably the explanation why no women have ever made themselves known as composers of operas or symphonies is to be found in the same cause which has prevented them from attaining distinction as historical painters, as historians, as epic poets, and as dramatists. They are deficient both in breadth of imagination and in the power of continuous application. There are more women than men who know something of music, something of painting, and something of literature—at least of that portion of it which is included in what is called the "Belles-Lettres"; but of the many women who receive artistic impressions there are few who are capable of combining and reproducing them.

Far be it from us to say that women overrate their importance in society, only they do not see it (at least not those who are most energetic in defending what they call their "rights") where we see that it exists. It has been asserted very often, of late, because a great many clever women during the last half century have written successful novels and lyric poems, that women have given proofs of intellectual power which place them very nearly on a level with the most intellectual men. But the statistics on the subject of the literary education of women have never been published, and very little is known with precision about the matter. It seems to us, however, that among the upper and a portion of the middle classes they have done nothing but read novels and the lighter sort of poems for a great many years past, and that, with their delicate, receptive, assimilative natures, it would be strange if such a course of study did not, with some of them, produce fruits. Many young ladies feed upon novels until, at last, they become novelists themselves. The young men of the same class who are not occupied at an office, or in business, or in some active career, such as the Army or Navy, are in the meanwhile at the University, or at the Bar, or are studying literature in a serious and systematic manner. Naturally, then, women find themselves more nearly on an equality with men in novel-writing than in any other pursuit common to both sexes, and we think the *Saturday Review* was right when it declared, a few weeks ago, that it was the only profitable, honourable, and agreeable occupation open to them.

The reason why women do not distinguish themselves as much in the minor branches of musical composition as in those of literature is, simply, that the language of music is one which (to begin with) it is easy to read and difficult to write. Every young lady who knows "*Lady Clara Vere de Vere*" by heart can write it down; but not one young lady in a thousand is sufficiently well taught to be able to note down on the music-paper the songs which she is in the habit of singing every day. From transcribing a known air to composing one is a great step, and from the composition of a simple air to that of an important musical work an immense one.

In short, no one has yet shown that the women of the present day are fit for any work of which they were not known to be capable a hundred years ago. They have taken part in the general progress of society, but man's work and woman's work are now as strictly defined as ever. Perhaps the strongest

proof that the ladies themselves are getting convinced of this fact is the favour they now show to projects for facilitating the emigration of educated young women who cannot find suitable employment in England. It is, indeed, far better—however painful the departure from home and country and the breaking up of old ties may be—that women should go abroad to do women's work, as wives and mothers, and to exercise women's legitimate moralising and civilising influence on society, than that they should remain to engage in a next to hopeless, and certainly by no means elevating, competition with men.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The Emperor and Empress have left Paris for Fontainebleau, and the Corps Législatif has been prorogued to the 27th inst. This measure was unexpected, and is supposed to have been adopted to avoid discussion on one of two topics—perhaps on both—namely, the Budget and the Mexican expedition.

Some of the Paris journals have again reverted to the discussion of the war in America, and insist on the propriety of France offering her mediation in the quarrel. This is believed to foreshadow the intention of the Emperor's Government to intervene in American affairs at no distant date.

Prince Napoleon has returned to Paris, and is said to have had a long interview with the Emperor—the topic under consideration being of course supposed to be Italian affairs.

SPAIN.

The Spanish Cortes are now engaged in discussing the late events in Mexico. *Senor Collantes* defended the Ministers against the attacks that were made on their proceedings, and declared that the Government remained faithful to its policy of respecting the independence of Mexico, of preventing a fratricidal war, and of obtaining reparation and indemnities.

ITALY.

The stormy debate which took place in the Italian Chamber of Deputies in reference to the arrests of *Brescia* and *Bergamo* has concluded with a vote of confidence in the Ministry. Letters from *Turin* state that it is now certain that in the first instance enrolments of emigrants were taking place in Italy for the purpose of aiding the insurgents of *Nauplia*—this being the expedition beyond the sea to which *Crispi* referred in the course of the debate; that both *Garibaldi* and *Ratazzi* were aware of those enrolments; that the collapse of the Greek insurrection rendered them fruitless; and that the diversion of the expedition to the direction of the Tyrol was arranged entirely without the knowledge or sanction either of the General or the Minister. This explanation seems probable enough, and would certainly go far to reconcile the apparent contradictions of statement which were made during the debate.

The Italian Budget has been submitted to the Chamber. It shows a considerable deficit, but also some extraordinary resources by which it will be partly supplied; and it is said to have produced a favourable impression upon financial and commercial as well as political circles.

Friday was the anniversary of the death of *Count Cavour*. Four days previously funeral services in commemoration of that great misfortune were begun, and a sort of pilgrimage to *Santena*, where he is buried. *Santena* is a villa of the *Benso di Cavour* family, seven miles from *Turin*. Venetian and Roman emigrants went to pray at the tomb; so did many citizens of *Turin*; as did also several companies of the National Guard, and others, accompanied by many working men. On the 17th inst. a solemn service will be performed in the Cathedral of *Turin* by desire of the Chamber of Deputies.

The ostensible object of the congregation of Bishops at Rome—the celebration of the canonisation of the Japanese martyrs—was solemnised on Sunday. The ceremony was a very magnificent one, and lasted six hours. Forty-four Cardinals and 243 Bishops were present, besides the members of the diplomatic body. The Basilica of the Vatican was beautifully decorated and lighted up by 10,000 wax tapers. The Pope, having duly elevated the four-and-thirty Japanese martyrs to the position of saints, turned his mind to the consideration of his own position on this nether globe, and in an allocution denounced all those who are endeavouring to disturb it by the war they have declared against his temporal power, and urged the Bishops to redouble their zeal in combating the errors spread by the revolutionary spirit against the authority of the Roman Catholic Church as well as against all laws, human and divine. In the evening all the Bishops dined with his Holiness in the library of the Vatican.

The Bishops have presented an address to the Pope in which they deplore the oppression of the Church and declare that the temporal power is necessary for the independence of the Pope. They approve all that the Pope has done in defence of the rights of the Holy See; they condemn the errors which have already been condemned by the Pope, and exhort his Holiness to continue firm in his resistance. The address is signed by 21 Cardinals and 244 Bishops.

Accounts from *Venetia* state that since recent events in Italy the most rigorous measures have been resorted to. At *Venice* the streets are patrolled from morning to night. At nine p.m. all noises are forbidden, and no groups are allowed to be formed. At *Padua* a number of students have been arrested, and a greater number still are ordered away.

AUSTRIA.

A somewhat curious scene has taken place in the Austrian Representative Chamber. During the debate on the budget various telling attacks were made upon the Finance Minister, *Von Plener*; and it was announced, and indeed established, that he had made a great mistake in his calculations, the deficit turning out to be 74 millions of florins instead of 80 millions, as he had originally fixed it. The House was disagreeably startled by this revelation, and signified its want of confidence in the Finance Minister by declining to take in hand the subject of augmented taxation until it should be satisfactorily settled what really was the amount requisite to meet the deficiency. This decision is equivalent to a stoppage of the supplies, and is a bold measure to be taken by an assembly constituted as the Austrian Reichsrath is.

According to a Viennese journal, an important measure is now being prepared by the Austrian Minister of State for the purpose of regulating the reciprocal relations of the Catholic Church and the two recognised Protestant Churches in Austria. This bill will be shortly presented to the Chamber, and contains legal provisions for the mutual transfer from one Church to another, the question of marriage, the education of children of mixed marriages, &c. The journal we refer to states that the revision of the Concordat is to be confined to the objects just mentioned, and is not to have the wider range at one time expected.

PRUSSIA.

The struggle between the King of Prussia and his Chamber has begun. The Address in reply to his Speech, as prepared by the friends of the Government, being moderately Liberal in tone, and an amendment, proposed in a Conservative sense, were both rejected, and an Address of a more decided complexion of Liberalism was carried by a large majority. It was presented to the King, who received the deputation rather coldly; and, while reverting to the tone of the Address, assured the members that he would preserve inviolate all the promises he had made. He hoped, therefore, they would rightly estimate his sentiments. It remains to be seen how long these two estates of the realm will proceed in harmony with each other.

The King of Prussia has been making another speech. In receiving a deputation from *Babelsberg*, *Westphalia*, his Majesty referred to the recent elections, and talked of those who influenced them as having caused a precipitate movement. "They say," con-

tinued the King, "Parliament and Royalty; but I say Royalty and Parliament—nothing else is possible in Prussia!" Those who lead the people astray are, he declared, his enemies; and it remained to be seen whether it would be possible to proceed in company with those individuals. All this, however, does not mean an approaching coup d'état. In fact, it means nothing, except that the King believes himself personally outraged by the election of representatives he does not like, and blurs out his vexation to the first comer.

RUSSIA.

Reports from Russia note the practical progress of the plans initiated by the Government for admitting the public to a definite participation in the management of their affairs, the special matter under consideration being the invitation of the Government to the communes of the various cities to deliberate on the new plans for the management of communal affairs—in short, for the institution of local corporations for the administration of civil affairs. The Emperor has signed the appointment of the Grand Duke *Constantine* as Viceroy of Poland. The *Marquis Wielopolski* is to administer the civil affairs, and General *Luders* to command the army in Poland.

DENMARK.

The thirteenth anniversary of the establishment of the Danish Constitution was celebrated on the 5th at Copenhagen and in the other parts of the kingdom with great enthusiasm. In the capital the people, preceded by the municipal body and bands of music, marched to the palace to salute the King. His Majesty, from the terrace of the palace, thanked the thirty or forty thousand persons present for their marks of attachment. The national flag floated from all the public edifices and from a large number of private houses.

GREECE.

There is a Ministerial crisis at Athens. All the members of the *Miaoulis* Ministry have tendered their resignation. The King is undecided. He hesitates to form a Ministry out of the Opposition, and he cannot find any man of mark to take upon himself the responsibility of Government. According to advices from Athens to the 7th inst. General *Colocotroni* has formed a provisional Ministry, with the mission of introducing bills for the formation of a National Guard and an electoral law.

THE HERZEGOVINA.

Accounts from the *Herzegovina* represent *Dervisch Pacha* as having occupied *Nikich*. The losses upon both sides are said to be very considerable. The fate of *Nikich* has been already so often described as decided in various ways that we are rather slow to believe in this success of the Turkish General.

THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.

The news from America since our last issue is important. The Confederates have gained a decided victory over General *Banks* at *Winchester*, Virginia. The series of combats in which this event occurred began at *Front Royal* on the 23rd, and were continued at *Winchester*, *Martinsburg*, and *Williamsport* on the 24th and 25th of May. The first scene in the affair was the attack on, and almost entire annihilation of, the 1st *Maryland* (Federal) Regiment, under the command of *Colonel Kenley*. This took place at *Front Royal*. The Confederate Generals *Ewells* and *Jackson*, followed up this movement. On the 25th of May, at daybreak, with a force of 15,000 men, they attacked General *Banks*, who, with 4000 men only, held *Winchester*. They drove him from that place, through *Martinsburg*, across the *Potomac* at *Williamsport*. Then, apparently satisfied with what they had done, they retired to *Winchester*, but still threatened the lines at *Harper's Ferry*, and therefore the road to *Washington*. The defeat of General *Banks* created great excitement at *Washington*, which was threatened by the advance of the Confederates, and no time was lost in raising troops and dispatching them to the capital. *Banks* is said to have been reinforced, and to have again advanced into Virginia. General *McDowell* had also fallen back from *Fredericksburg* to *Manassas Gap*.

General *McClellan* had routed the Confederates at *Hanover Court House*, and was thus within about ten miles of *Richmond*. *Natchez*, on the *Mississippi*, had been taken by the Federals. A despatch, countersigned by General *McClellan's* chief of Staff, states that by the burning of a bridge across a creek on the line of the *Richmond*, *Fredericksburg*, and *Potomac Railroad*, communication is cut off between *Richmond* and the army of General *Jackson*.

The latest accounts state that the Confederates evacuated *Corinth* on the 29th of May, and retired first to *Grand Junction*, and then either southward or westward; but the exact direction taken by them seems to be uncertain.

Commodore Tatnall, who commanded the *Merrimac*, officially reports why that vessel was destroyed. The pilots promised him that if she were lightened they would run her up the *James River*, to within forty miles of *Richmond*, in order to assist in the defence of that city. She was lightened accordingly, and then the pilots found they had made a mistake. The lightning had, however, made the *Merrimac* unfit for battle, and, as she was hemmed round by Federal vessels, she was destroyed.

President *Lincoln* had appointed a military tribunal for the trial of those newspaper editors and correspondents who have been aiding the strategic movements of the rebels by violating the Government regulations in regard to the press.

The House of Representatives had offered to pass strong measures against those who took office or bore arms under the Confederate Government, but had refused to confiscate the slaves of rebels. *Mr. Dawes*, in a speech in Congress, stated that the expenses of the Federal Government, from March 4, 1861, to May 22, 1862, amounted in round numbers to 441,000,000 dollars, and that the total debt of the country at the present moment was 481,000,000 dollars. The accuracy of these figures was questioned by several members. In reference to the Tax Bill, *Mr. Harris* gave an opinion that it was severe on commerce and manufactures, and that one fifth of the whole would be paid by the city of *New York*.

General *Butler* was ruling with extreme military rigour at *New Orleans*. He had seized a large sum of money at the Dutch Consulate, which had called forth protests from all the foreign Consuls resident in the city. The money belonged to the banking-house of *Hope*, of *Amsterdam*. Another measure taken by General *Butler* is of a very extraordinary character. He had issued a proclamation to the effect that the officers and soldiers of the United States have been exposed to insulting treatment from certain women, calling themselves "ladies of *New Orleans*." These insults, it is affirmed, have no justification, the *New Orleans* women "calling themselves ladies" having been treated with singular deference and courtesy by the Federal officers and soldiers. To punish this ingratitude and effectually to repress this insolence, General *Butler's* proclamation declares that hereafter, when any females shall, by word, gesture, or movement, insult or show contempt for any officer or soldier of the United States, she shall be regarded and held liable to be treated as a common woman of the town plying her avocation." This proclamation, the authenticity of which was at first doubted, has caused very general indignation, as well it may; and General *Beauregard* has called upon every Southern man to come forward and avenge so atrocious an outrage upon the female portion of the Southern people.

A serious disturbance had taken place at *Norfolk*. The particulars are not fully given, but it appears a negro attacked a Union soldier, and a part of a *New York* regiment was called upon to quell the disturbance. Three negroes were killed, two or three wounded, and the leaders imprisoned.

THE CONSERVATIVES AND THE LATE DEBATE.—It seems that the Conservatives are not all satisfied with the course taken by their leaders in the debate on *Mr. Stansfeld's* motion. At the town of *Maldon* there has been a Conservative gathering, at which *Mr. Du Cane*, *Major Jervis*, and *Mr. Peacocke* spoke. *Mr. Du Cane* very freely expressed his disapproval both of the amendment of *Mr. Walpole* and of the conduct of that gentleman in withdrawing it. In *Mr. Du Cane's* opinion it would have been better not to have given notice of any amendment at all; but, such notice having been given, the battle ought to have been fought out. Both *Major Jervis* and *Mr. Peacocke* declared themselves of a similar opinion.

IRELAND.

THE CROPS.—The reports from the provinces speak favourably of every kind of crop. The crops look well, particularly the potatoes; the oat crop did not look so promising up to this, owing to too much rain having fallen; but now that the weather is coming in warm, it is to be hoped that oats will be seen assume another appearance. The people generally, this season, are making an effort to put down a large sowing of turnips, which, it is to be regretted, has been hitherto almost entirely neglected by small farmers, and has been urged to do so by those who have experienced the benefit themselves. A better grazing season could not be desired, and, so far, bids fair for an abundant harvest.

THE IRISH CONSTABULARY.—The expenditure on this force in 1861 amounted to £716,140, of which the Imperial funds bore above £700,000, the counties and towns paying not quite the odd £16,000. The strength at the beginning of the present year, officers and men, was 12,071, with a reserve force of 388. There are also 72 stipendiary magistrates in Ireland.

STATE OF THE MIDLAND COUNTIES.—The Ribbon confederacy frequently affords those who fall under the disfavour of members of the association unpleasant manifestations of its vigilance and watchfulness in the counties of Meath, Westmeath, and King's and Queen's counties, many of the landlords of which, as appears from the local papers, have received notices to modify their dealings with their tenants or prepare for a disagreeable alternative; and the Lord Lieutenant has found it necessary to revoke any licence or licences granted to carry or to have arms to several parties in King's County, Cavan, and Donegal.

JOHN OF TUAM AND THE GOVERNMENT.—The Lion of St. Jarlath's, in enlarging upon the truism that murder may be committed in more ways than one, charges the Government with that capital crime on a wholesale scale, the victims being those who perish by famine in Ireland. At a public meeting held in Tuam last week the Archbishop is reported to have said:—"Was it not, then, lamentable to witness the hard-hearted indifference exhibited by those who have the power, if they had but the will, to save a perishing people, who cannot and must not be expected to lie down to starve? Murder is criminal and punishable by the laws of the land, and may be committed in a variety of ways. Was it anything short of murder to consign with inhuman indifference their fellow-creatures to the dreadful death of starvation, just as the British Government would now doom the poor of the west of Ireland?"

IRISH CONVICT ESTABLISHMENTS.—The new arrangements in the directors of the Irish Convict Prisons Office are said to be that Captain Whitty will be sole director or inspector-general, with two assistants. Captain Barlow, local inspector of Spike Island Prison, who has been assisting as temporary director at head-quarters since the transfer of the third director (Mr. Lantagne) to the office of inspector-general of prisons, is named as one of the assistants, and Mr. Netterville, governor of Mountjoy Prison, as the other. Mr. Spread, the deputy governor, is to be governor, and the office of deputy-governor is to be abolished.

SCOTLAND.

A SENSITIVE CONSCIENCE.—William Campbell, a carter, residing near Dunfermline, committed suicide a few days ago under peculiar circumstances. Some time ago he registered himself as a voter, knowing that the rental of his property did not entitle him to be enrolled. Since doing so he has been impressed with the belief that the penalty was the loss of his property, and this belief agitated him very much. A few days since he received a summons to sit as a jurymen in Dunfermline, which disturbed him greatly, as he believed it to be an ingenious contrivance to wheedle him into the Sheriff Court, from which he would never be allowed to return. He became greatly agitated, and next morning his corpse was discovered in his garden, with the throat cut by a razor still firmly grasped in his hand.

PUSKS IN A NEW CHARACTER.—A Kirkcaldy correspondent sends the following:—"An interesting illustration of the curiosities of natural history occurred the other day at Kirkcaldy. A duck's egg, by some mistake, had been put among the eggs which a hen was at the time hatching. The chickens, however, broke their shells five or six days before the duckling, and no sooner had the alien made its appearance than they flew at it, pecking it, and seemingly determined to destroy it. An Archangel cat, which was nursing a family of kittens, seeing the ill-usage of which duckling was the object, seized the little victim, carried it off to her own nursery, laid it beside her kittens, and has ever since tended it with as much care and interest as if it had been a genuine member of the feline species. Duckey seems perfectly contented with its new mamma; and, although it leaves her at intervals to be fed, never fails to return to its generous protector. The kittens, we believe, have been equally kind to their new playmate, and manifest no signs of animosity."

THE PROVINCES.

THE CROPS IN NORTH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.—The wheat crop, especially on the clay lands, is most promising. On some of the sands the wireworm and grub prevail, but not to such an extent as seriously to lessen the general yield. Most of the crop has a highly-promising appearance, and much of it is fast preparing to shoot. Both the late and the early sown barleys have progressed in a highly-satisfactory manner, and the yield promises to be above the average. Up to the present time also the bean and the pea crops are all that can be desired. They have hitherto escaped all kinds of filth, and are fast approaching that critical time, the blooming season, which almost always gives the turn either for weal or for woe to this part of our agricultural produce. During the present season immense breadths have been sown with potatoes, principally of the early or second early kinds. These have mostly come up well, and manifest no appearance of lurking disease. The crops of grass and seeds are unsurpassably good.

A WOMAN CUTTING HER TONGUE OUT.—A horrible case of self-mutilation occurred in Raleigh-street, Nottingham, on Sunday morning, a married woman named Abel having cut her tongue out. It appeared that the woman had had a quarrel with her husband, and on the morning in question rose about six o'clock, went down stairs and cut off as much of her tongue as she could reach, leaving the remainder shockingly haggled. A surgeon was sent for, but after examining the wound he gave very little hope of her recovery. During the day she wrote on a piece of paper that, being unsuccessful in her search for her husband's razor, she had taken a knife to accomplish her object. She has five children.

THE LADY GODIVA PROCESSION.—It is now decided that this legendary pageant will be revived at Coventry on the 23rd instant. According to the *Birmingham Post* the procession will be upwards of a mile in length, and comprise about 800 men, 70 children, and 150 horses. The chief character represented—"Lady Godiva"—will be borne by a beautiful female, gracefully and becomingly attired, who will ride, as of yore, on a cream-coloured charger, and be surrounded by a bevy of little and prettily-dressed and mounted damsels. Among other attractive and interesting features of the pageant there will be fourteen "city guards" clad in suits of old iron armour, being part of the antiquities in the possession of the Corporation; a large gaily-decorated car, emblematic of the "Seasons"; "Leofric" (the husband of Godiva), "Edward the Black Prince," "Richard II.," "Henry IV.," "Henry VI. and his Queen," "Queen Elizabeth," "A Shepherd and Shepherdess in bower," "William and Adam Bottomer" (former citizens of Coventry, and who built the tallest of the three tall spires), "Sir William Dugdale, the famous antiquarian, and author of the 'History of Warwickshire,'" &c. The procession will include ten brass bands, and there will be an almost infinite variety of flags, banners, and other decorative appointments. Several of the leading railway companies have arranged to run special excursion-trains to Coventry on the occasion, and it is anticipated the influx of visitors will be large.

THE SHEFFIELD CEMETERY DISCLOSURES.—Isaac Howard, the sexton of St. Philip's burial-ground, was apprehended on Monday morning at the Red Lion Hotel, Masborough, by detective officers Airey and Brayshaw. He had sent word to the police of his intention to come to Sheffield by the first train from the south on Monday morning, having been staying at Bakewell and Derby since the riots. The officers went to meet him at the station, but he did not arrive by the early train, in consequence of having been accidentally detained at Eekington. Subsequently, hearing that he had arrived at Masborough by a late train, Airey and Brayshaw went to search the public-houses there, and found him at the Red Lion. He came voluntarily with them to Sheffield, supposing they had merely come to protect him from any violence that might be offered on the way. They, however, held a warrant for his apprehension, issued in consequence of disclosures made in course of an inquiry into the affair. Howard appeared before the magistrates in support of the application for compensation for the damage done to his house, and detective-officer Brayshaw then produced the warrant, and applied to the Bench to remand the prisoner on a charge of having illegally removed the remains of a child of William Shearman, of Philadelphia. Howard seemed much surprised at the application, not having been previously aware that he was in custody. Mr. Broadbent applied on his behalf to the magistrates to admit him to bail, but they declined to do so, Mr. A. Smith remarking that that was quite out of the question, as it was at present impossible to say what charges might arise against the prisoner. Howard was therefore remanded.

MILITARY MURDER AT BRIGHTON.—On Sunday night a murder was perpetrated at the infantry barracks in Church-street, Brighton. The sentry on guard shot one of his comrades dead as he entered the gates. Both the deceased and his assassin are Irishmen of about the same age, twenty-three years, and belong to the same troop in the 18th Hussars. The name of the former is John O'Dea, and of the latter John Flood. It appears that the men of this regiment, unknown to the officers, have indulged in holding courts-martial upon each other for various peccadilloes which they may have committed. Flood, who bears a high character in the regiment and wears a good-conduct stripe, has been subjected to annoyances, and has been once tried by one of these mock tribunals and sentenced to, and was compelled to take, a "dozen and a half;" and on Sunday was threatened by the deceased with another trial. He had on the previous day used O'Dea's saddle, and neglected to clean it afterwards; and at noon on Sunday, when they met, they had a few angry words about it, ending in

O'Dea telling him that on Monday he would bring him before a "court-martial" and charge him with leaving the saddle dirty. Flood was one of the guard on Sunday, but O'Dea was off duty, and they saw no more of one another until nine o'clock on Sunday night, when the latter returned to barracks with two or three comrades, just after the guard had been relieved, and Flood was on duty at the gates. It was nearly dark, and, as O'Dea passed through, Flood called out, "Is that you, Jack?" O'Dea turned round and said, "Yes," when Flood, hastily pushing the other soldiers a little on one side, levelled his carbine at O'Dea and fired. The ball entered the centre of his chest, passed out at the back, and was picked up flattened at the foot of the barrack wall. One of the men immediately knocked Flood down, and, had it not been for the sergeant of the guard, a second murder would in all probability have been committed, for the men were so enraged that it was with difficulty they were kept from Flood, who was arrested and taken to the guardhouse. He there asked the Sergeant if O'Dea was dead, and was told that he could live only a minute or two longer, whereupon he rushed upon the sergeant and made an attempt to draw his sword, but, being the smaller man of the two, he was easily put back and handed over to the custody of Superintendent Barden, of the borough police, who had by this time arrived. It is believed the above trivial matter is the only motive assigned for the deplorable occurrence, and the prisoner confesses that he did it because the deceased and the other man were always "at him." Flood was brought before the borough magistrates for examination on Monday. The facts were too clear to admit of dispute, and the prisoner did not deny his guilt, the only excuse offered by him, if it can be called one, being that the carbine which he fired was not loaded by him. He was committed for trial at the next assizes.

FATAL BOAT ACCIDENTS.—A melancholy accident occurred at Brighton on Sunday afternoon to a party of excursionists. There had been a stiff breeze from the south-west; and, though not much of a sea for visitors, some few sailing-vessels ventured out, and among them one of the smallest which by law is allowed to carry sails—an 18ft. lugger, belonging to a man named Arthral. This boat, which is licensed to carry ten persons, went out about twelve o'clock, with nine passengers, all gentlemen, and was under the management of a man named Mockford. It had all its canvas up, and was on the return voyage, when, at about twenty minutes to one o'clock, and when it was only about seventy or eighty yards from the shore, the rudder was carried away, and the strong wind immediately bore the boat on its side, and it capsize, throwing the whole of the occupants into the water. Luckily, however, it was nearly low tide, and six of the passengers managed to reach the shore, some of them necessarily being very much exhausted in struggling with the waves and tide. The bodies of two other gentlemen came ashore shortly after; the boatman reached the shore in safety. Very soon several medical gentlemen were on the spot and rendered all the assistance in their power. All efforts to restore two of the unfortunate passengers proved unavailing. After trying nearly an hour to bring about respiration, one case was given up as hopeless, and another died from exhaustion. One of the deceased has been identified as Mr. Thomas Ponsford, of King-street, Leicester. He was apparently about thirty-nine years of age. He was here with his brother, who was standing on the shore waiting for the boat to come in when the sad affair occurred. The linen of the other deceased is marked "Peck," and he was about fifty years of age. The body of the third gentleman drowned was washed ashore on Monday.—The Mersey, as well as the sea at Brighton, was the scene of a deplorable accident on Sunday last. A party of thirteen men went off in a boat between Runcorn and Warrington to try a new sail with which the boat had been fitted, when a gust of wind filled the sail and over-set the boat. Four of the boat's crew were drowned, and some of the others were rescued in a very exhausted condition.

GREAT LANDSLIP NEAR LYME REGIS.—Early in the afternoon of the 28th ult. a great landslip took place on the coast between Lyme Regis and Charmouth. Several men and boys were at work in gardens on and near the spot, and one boy escaped with his life by jumping over the cracks as they opened under him, as in an earthquake. A woman who was near at the time was so terrified that she threw herself flat upon the ground. Her fright may well be excused, for half-a-dozen acres of land marching off bodily must be a strange sight, and one not altogether devoid of the terrible. A man, who was close at hand, describes the noise as having been "like a thousand thunders." Scarcely ten minutes before the slip took place a gentleman who owned part of the lost land was standing on the edge of the very highest part of the cliff, expressing his admiration of the magnificent view before him, as, it being clear weather, he could see Portland on the one hand and Start Point on the other. Within a quarter of an hour the ground on which he stood was strewn in fragments upon the beach, at least one hundred yards in perpendicular depth below. The appearance of this landslip is very different from that of the great slip near Axmouth in 1839. In the case of the latter an enormous mass slid bodily into the sea, and was comparatively but little broken. In this slip but a very small part of the detached mass held together. Nearly the whole of the cliff seems to have fallen over, and to have been dashed to atoms. It is difficult to estimate correctly the area of cultivated ground lost; at present the distance from the road to the edge of the cliff is now about eighty yards. It is said, however, that the slip covers nearly ten acres of ground, and certainly is the largest fall of earth since the great landslip of 1839 referred to above. The beach itself right down to low-water mark (and we cannot say how much further) is a perfect chaos of blue lias, mud, and rocks, the latter varying in size from the smallest conceivable fragment to the great mass of many tons weight, and the former in consistency from treacle to butter. The peculiar nature and direction of the strata seems to render the neighbourhood of Lyme Regis liable to these great slips. The sea is rapidly gaining on the east end of the town itself. Part of the churchyard has already slipped away, and more than one grave disappeared. The next slip will certainly carry away a considerable part of the road; and it behoves the natives of Lyme to look to their communications in the eastern quarter of the town.

THE PRINCE OF WALES AT MALTA.—The Malta papers of the 5th contain long accounts of the enthusiastic reception given to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales by the inhabitants of that island. At six o'clock in the morning the tower signal-flag announced the approach of the squadron, consisting of the Royal yacht Osborne, her Majesty's ship Doris, and her Majesty's ship Magicienne, and at seven o'clock the Osborne, with his Royal Highness and party on board, entered the grand harbour, followed closely by the two other ships. The yacht was immediately boarded by Captain Brett, Aide-de-Camp to his Excellency the Governor, and at eleven o'clock his Royal Highness landed, amid the vivas and acclamations of the thousands who fringed the bastions and swarmed along the wharves and on every point whence a view of the scene could be obtained. The quiet ship's barge in which the Prince landed was made to pass through two long lines of native gondolas, whose "gay flags and awnings and bright colours under our southern sunshine looked novel and imposing, and reminded one strongly of those bright and fairy scenes from the history of 'fair Venice' so spiritedly illustrated by the gifted pencils of Canaletti and Turner." At the landing-place the Prince was received by a deputation of the clergy, the elected members of council, and the leading merchants and gentry, whose cordial welcome he very gracefully acknowledged. When the Prince landed the Governor introduced to him Canon Amato (as *locum tenens* of the Roman Catholic Bishop), who was at the right hand side on the jetty; and then the elected members of the Council of Government, who were on the left. A handsome bouquet of artificial flowers, made by the nuns of St. Ursula, was then presented to the Prince by the children of several respectable inhabitants. He here entered one of the carriages prepared for him, accompanied by the Governor in plain clothes, and proceeded along the route sketched out in the committee's programme, preceded by great crowds waving flags and cheering vehemently. The Prince and the principal officers of his party were the guests of Sir Gaspard and Lady Le Marchant at the palace.

ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL.—The governors of St. Thomas's Hospital have at length come to a decision upon the future situation of the hospital, which has to be removed to make way for an extension of the railway terminus at London-bridge. A bargain has been made and the deposit-money paid for the Royal Surrey Gardens, in Walworth, whose conversion into the Surrey Music Hall, a few years back, proved so unfortunate for the shareholders. The new situation is central enough, being about a mile and a quarter distant from all the river bridges, and easily accessible to the class from whom the patients mostly come.

ANOTHER AWFUL TRAGEDY.—There was a great deal of excitement on Tuesday morning in consequence of a tragedy having been discovered to have been enacted at No. 189, Blackfriars-road, which closely resembles the one which recently took place in Ludgate-street, with the exception that, instead of the two children having been murdered by their mother, who afterwards attempted suicide, in this case two children—fine young girls of the ages of four and seven years respectively—were, in the first instance, poisoned by their father, who afterwards destroyed his own life by plunging a carving-knife into various parts of his body. From Sunday last a person named Joseph Mockford, a widower, residing at the above address, had been missed from his home, as well as two of his children. Nothing unusual was at first imagined, as some of the neighbours thought that the family had gone out to spend the Whitens holidays. Late on Monday night, however, information was given to the police of the mysterious disappearance of the man and his children, and on Tuesday morning Inspector Turpin and Acting Inspector Gardener proceeded to the house, where the following spectacle presented itself:—Mr. Gardener, upon entering the room, found the man sitting in a chair in front of the window, his head reclining, his trousers loose, and his body covered with blood which had flowed from several wounds, his abdomen which he had evidently inflicted with a large carving-knife. The two children, named Emily and Catherine, were found lying in front of the fireplace, also quite dead. Mr. Gardener at once sent for medical assistance, and, from the examination made of the contents of a cup and a paper found on the table, there was not the least doubt that the children had died from poison and the man from the wounds on his person. Mockford bore an exceedingly good character, but since the death of his wife, which occurred about the end of last April, he is described as having been moody and threatening self-destruction.

THE MANUFACTORY OF MESSRS. PETIN AND GAUDET, ST. CHAMOND.

In addition to the illustrations of our own English workshops, we engrave a representation of a portion of the works of Messrs. Petin and Gaudet, where are manufactured those enormous iron plates which form the armour of the vessels of war in the French Navy. Founded in 1818, this large manufactory forms the most important of those works which occupy the basin of the Loire, since it embraces within itself an entire faubourg and employs 2000 workmen. In fourteen years Messrs. Petin and Gaudet have placed the foundries of St. Chamond, celebrated alike for their arrangement and the machinery employed within the workshops, at the head of the French trade, and have, up to the present time, executed the whole of the Government contracts for the iron plating used in the new frigates. The extent and completeness of their operations may be indicated by the fact that in this department they are prepared to supply every year the plating for at least fifteen vessels.

This, however, is but one of that series of factories which have arisen from the exigencies of engineering operations in France both for scientific and warlike purposes. Any one travelling between Lyons and St. Etienne will be struck by the extraordinary aspect of the valley which they will traverse in their route—a district exhibiting a greater number of large industrial establishments than can be found in any other portion of France—a valley in which was constructed the first French railway. Its entire course bristles with chimneys, lofty furnaces, glasshouse-ovens, and the scaffolding at pit-shafts, while the atmosphere is similar to that of our own "black country."

Amongst the principal of these works are the various departments of Messrs. Petin and Gaudet (one of which we have just mentioned), a firm celebrated no less by the importance of the undertakings in which they are engaged than by the rapidity with which they have achieved their position in the great manufacturing community in France. Their various establishments comprise the works at Rive-de-Gier, St. Chamond de Lorette, and Assailly, in the valley of Gier; and Vierzion, Clavieres, and Toga, situated at some distance. The central establishment is at Rive-de-Gier, while the workshops at St. Chamond are the most recently built, and of greater extent than the rest. By a strange compensation, St. Chamond, which, when it was the seat of the ribbon trade, was ruined by the establishment of the railway, is now resuscitated by its having become the great workshop for railway metal, and especially for the wheels of locomotives. This, with the plates for the vessels of war, employs a complete town of forges and foundries whose fifty chimneys mark the extent of a district which is inhabited by an army of skilled labourers. The department at Toga is devoted to the manufacture of other descriptions of iron-work, especially in connection with wheelwright's castings. Three of the forges at Chamond are English, and are principally used for the steel bars, the best kinds of locomotive wheels, and turning-plates. The workshops at Assailly and Lorette (Loire) supply the cast steel used at the other works, but the latter is shortly to be occupied in the manufacture of springs for railway-carriages. Messrs. Petin and Gaudet are largely increasing both their home and foreign engagements, and already employ a small fleet in the Mediterranean for the transport of minerals from Sardinia, while their trucks are continually running on the Southern line of railway. The cost of transit for the materials necessary for their works is said to be £100,000 a year.

Eight thousand workmen are employed at their various establishments and in the different services connected with the business; while the capital of the company is at least a million sterling.

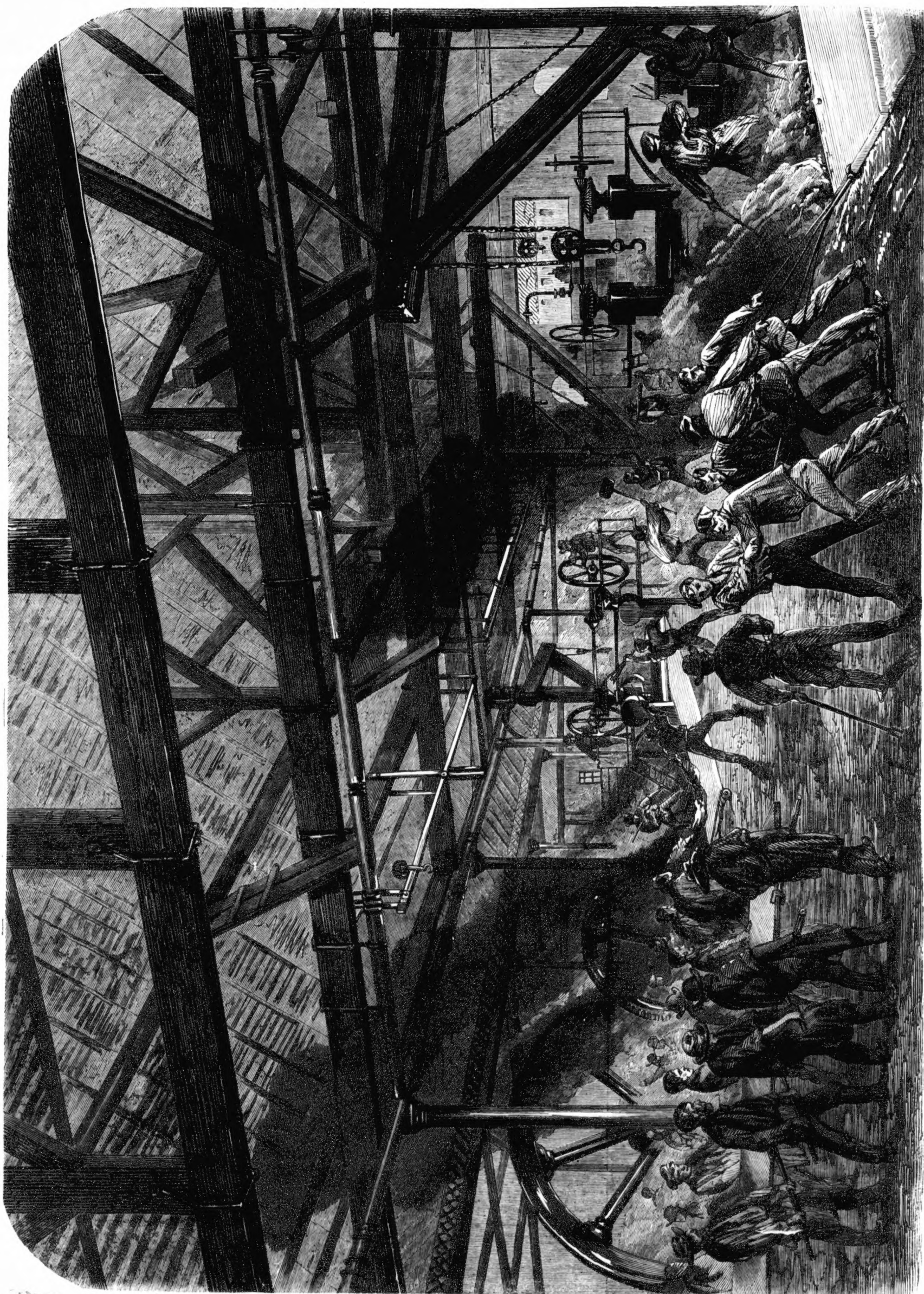
THE FORTIFICATION OF ANTWERP.—Mr. Cobden, in a letter relative to the fortification of Antwerp, says:—"Belgium owes its existence to moral influence, to the consent of the great Powers, and not to any strength of its own. The only risk which it runs of losing its nationality is that of its being annexed to France; but at the present day it is no longer the custom to annex provinces without the consent of their population. So long, therefore, as you shall be lightly taxed you will enjoy greater liberty and greater prosperity than if you were annexed to France, and for that reason you will most certainly prefer to remain independent. If I were the King of the Belgians, and wished to preserve the crown to my descendants, I should only maintain some few thousands of men. I should consider myself as king by moral influence only, and I should say to my powerful neighbours, 'You have proclaimed my neutrality, and I intend to give to my people the benefit of that situation, in making them the most lightly taxed and the most prosperous in Europe;' and that, believe me, will be the most certain method of making the Belgians attached to their independence. But to construct fortifications at Antwerp, with the idea of making it the rallying-point for an army in the event of war, and thus inviting all Europe to make it their battle-field, is to place the people in so frightful a position that they would, of course, prefer annexation to such a destiny."

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN NAPLES.—A church in connection with the English Establishment is about to be erected in Naples. One of the acts of Garibaldi, when Dictator in Naples in 1860, was to present to the British residents a valuable piece of ground, most conveniently situated in the best part of the city, as a site for an Anglican Protestant church, a circumstance which derives all the more interest from the fact that, under the late Government, English Protestants were forbidden to worship except in a room, and that room in the Consul's residence. The British community at Naples are attempting to raise a sum of at least £5000, which will include church, schools, teacher's house, and parsonage. The church is to cost £4000, and to contain 600 sittings. About £1500 has been contributed in Naples, and about £800 in England. The British Government, by the terms of the Consular Act, is empowered to meet whatever sum is collected on the spot by an equivalent grant.

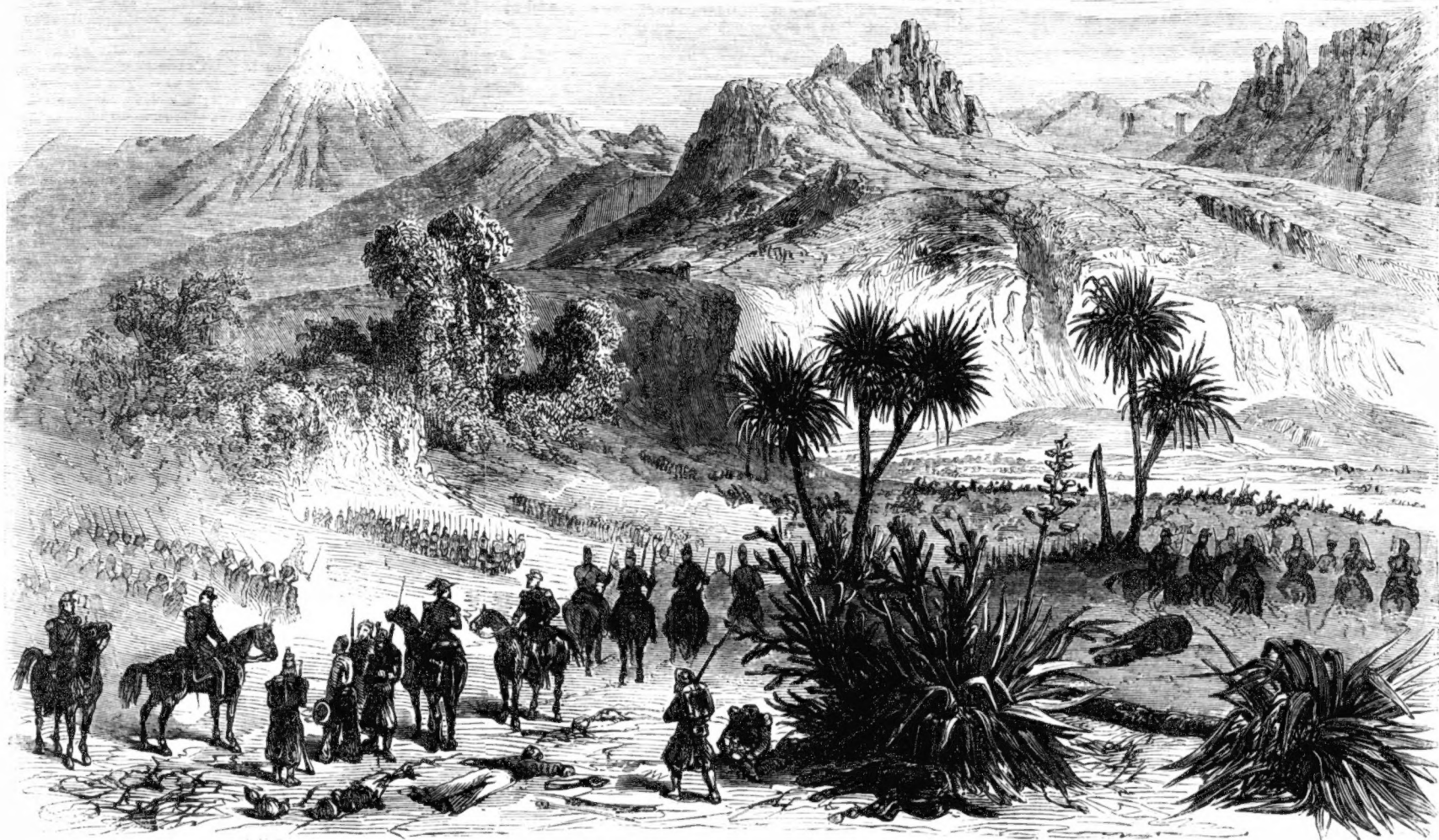
FATAL EXPLOSION.—A shocking accident occurred on Saturday morning last in Bishopsgate-street. The shop of a manufacturing chemist was blown down through the force of some explosive substances, and several people in the street were struck down. Even an omnibus which was passing along the road was struck by some of the substances, though fortunately no one was injured. Almost immediately after the explosion fire burst out in every part of the house, and the whole front was enveloped in flames. The fire-engines and the fire-escape were quickly on the spot, yet it was with difficulty the fire was subdued; and the men, after a search among the ruins, discovered the charred remains of a servant and a little girl that could not be got out at first. Several other persons were severely injured and conveyed to the hospital, where they now lie in a precarious state. There can be little doubt, from the evidence adduced at the Coroner's inquest, that a cask containing methylated spirits had leaked, and that a lighted lucifer-match, carelessly flung down had caused the explosion.

CLOSE OF THE MASONS' STRIKE.—On Tuesday evening a general meeting of the London Operative Masons was held at the Crown and Cushion Tavern, Westminster-road, for the purpose of taking into consideration the recommendation of the executive council of the Masons' General Union, as to the terms upon which the strike now existing since March, 1861, should be brought to a termination. There was a crowded attendance. The chairman said the terms which he had to submit to the meeting for closing the strike had received the sanction of a large majority of the votes of the members of the general union. It was recommended that they should give up the twelve o'clock and concede the one o'clock time on the Saturday in the hour shops receiving 3s. 10d. for the Saturday, while in those shops working on the old system until four o'clock on the Saturday they should receive the full day's pay; that ten hours should be the maximum day's work in all shops, and that any man required beyond the ten hours should receive time and a half for every hour so worked; but that all systematic overtime should be discouraged as much as possible. A long discussion ensued, at the close of which it was carried almost unanimously that the members of the London branch of the Masons' Union resume work at all shops upon the above terms, with the understanding that in any case where the charge of time and a half was refused for overtime the member should report such refusal to his lodge, who should deal with the case on its merits, and, if they decided that the demand should be insisted upon, any man discharged or leaving his employ on account of such refusal should receive support from the funds of the society.

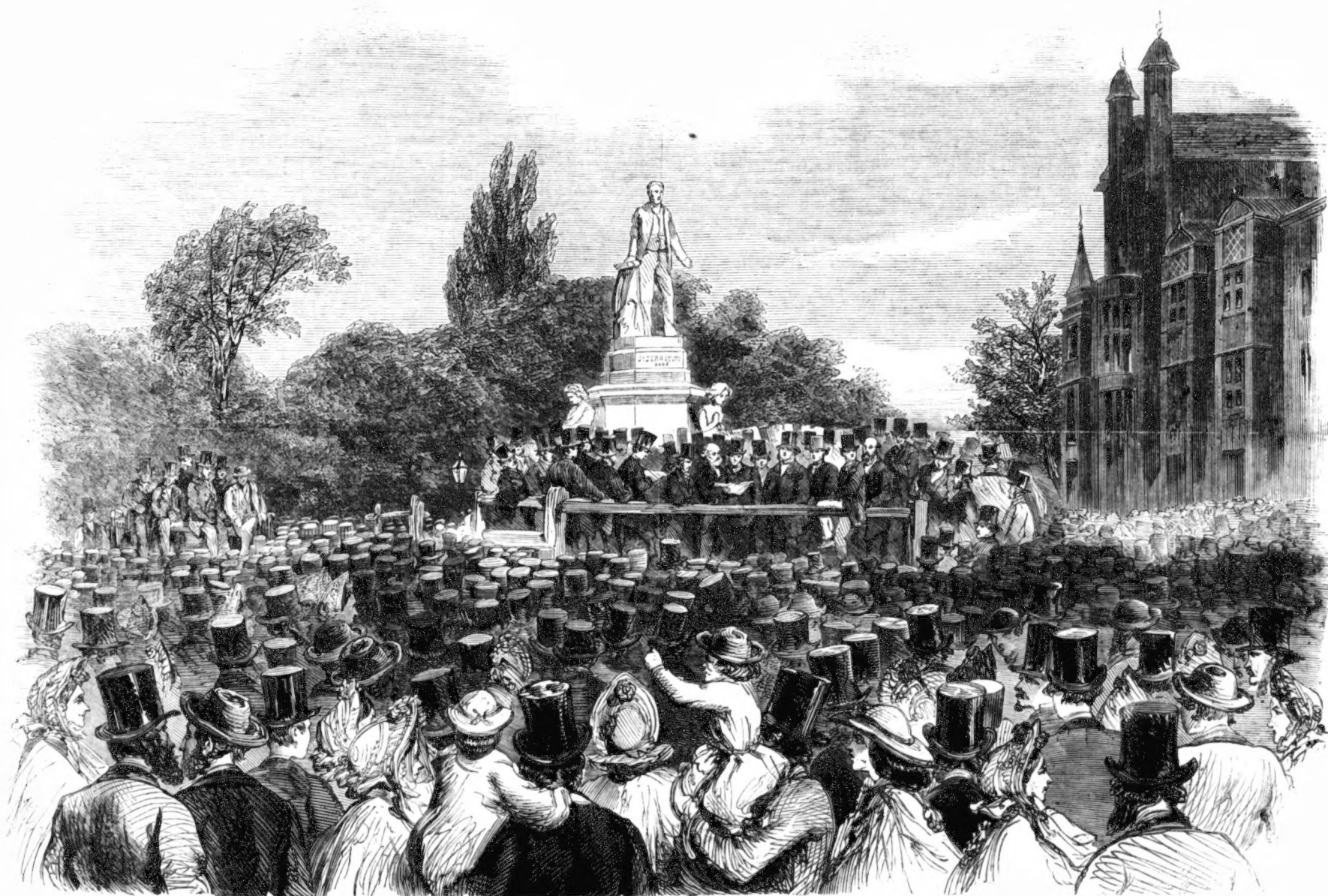
THE HANDEL FESTIVAL AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE.—The arrangements for the festival are now complete. The engagements have been made with the entire band and chorus; and the committee of the Sacred Harmonic Society—whose experience in large meetings of this character is well known—state that on no former occasion has so large or so talented an assemblage of amateurs and professors ever been gathered together. The instrumentalists comprise stringed instruments, of whom no less than one hundred and thirty-eight are violoncellos and double basses. Considerably over one hundred wind instruments are engaged; and this, with the great organ of Messrs. Gray and Davison, which is now receiving large additions, will produce an instrumental combination without precedent. The chorus will bring up the aggregate number of performers to about four thousand; and at the emanations of the "giant composer" will now be heard for the first time on anything approaching this scale, in a completed and properly prepared acoustically-constructed roofed orchestra, the effects must be far beyond what has ever before been witnessed.



MANUFACTURE AT ST. CHAMOND OF ARMOUR-PLATES FOR FRENCH IRON-CLAD VESSELS OF WAR.



ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN FRENCH AND MEXICAN TROOPS ON THE ROUTE TO ORIZABA.



INAUGURATION AT BIRMINGHAM OF THE STATUE OF THE LATE JOSEPH STURGE.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY J. HADEN.)

FRENCH TROOPS IN MEXICO.

ALTHOUGH the continuance of the French intervention in Mexico is likely to produce very serious political complications, it is probable that the war will be maintained only in a series of desultory skirmishes for some time to come, since, although the Mexican General has taken steps to arrest the progress of the French troops, he has scarcely given indications of hazarding a decisive engagement. Our engraving represents the struggle between the Mexican troops and the French regiments as the latter were proceeding through Vera Cruz to Orizaba.

By the latest news from France it is said France grants her protectorate to Mexico; that the Provisional Government proposed to be established in the capital will agree to maintain the French army of occupation; so that no further expense will be entailed upon France. It is hoped that, when once the money question is solved, the Corps Législatif will not show itself hostile to the Imperial policy in Mexico.

The sending of reinforcements to the army is decided on, but their departure will not take place before next October. Before that period, however, many changes may take place in Mexico, where events supervene so rapidly. But at present the French Government appears determined upon establishing in that far-distant region the little army which will be victualled and maintained by the future provisional Mexican Government, and which, consequently, would cost France but very little—nothing, indeed, but the men. It is said that the blockade by the French squadron of the ports of Tampico and Alvarado, in the Gulf of Mexico, has been made in order to prevent the American trade from introducing arms into Mexico through the two seaports.

Despatches received at Washington from Orizaba, dated May 9, state that the French had been attacked by 10,000 Mexicans within a short distance of the city of Mexico, and defeated, with a loss of 500 men. This, however, is doubtful, as another despatch, dated the 8th, intimates that that day the French army commenced retreating from before Puebla towards Amesa. The following is a despatch announcing the news to President Juarez:—

Puebla, Thursday, May 8.

Word was received at the city of Mexico on the 7th, in the afternoon, that we have triumphed. The French have commenced retreating since we offered them battle this morning. Forming our troops in front of their camp, they have refused to accept our challenge, and have turned their backs to their foolish hardihood and unpardonable credulity. IGNACIO MILIA.

General Diego Alvarez, who has taken command of the State Guerrero, in succession to Juan Alvarez, issues, in consequence of the above, a new decree, threatening a penalty of death to those who shall give any information or assistance to the French, also advising the residents of Acapulco to retire ten leagues into the interior, thus abandoning the post to the first man-of-war who may come in.

The British squadron, consisting of four men-of-war, was at Acapulco on the 17th. The English Minister is said to have made a satisfactory arrangement with the Mexican Government for the settlement of British claims.

THE STURGE STATUE AT BIRMINGHAM.

WE last week mentioned that a statue in honour of the late Mr. Joseph Sturge had been erected in Birmingham, and that the ceremony of inauguration took place on Wednesday week. Shortly after Mr. Sturge's death a subscription was raised for a public statue. Mr. William Middlemore, a borough magistrate, Mr. John Jaffray, and other gentlemen took an active part, the funds were speedily raised, and the commission to execute it intrusted to the late Mr. Thomas, the sculptor, who, however, died before he had given the last touches to his work.

The statue has been erected on by far the best site in the town; it is at one of the boundaries where the parishes of Birmingham and Edgbaston meet, the last being the parish in which Mr. Sturge resided. The monument consists of a central figure of Mr. Sturge, his right hand resting on a Bible and the left extended towards a figure symbolical of Peace. A figure on one side is typical of Charity. At the base of the statue, in front and back, are large basins for ornamental fountains, and at each side are drinking-fountains. The principal figure is in Sicilian marble, the secondary groups in fine freestone. The likeness of the man is portrayed with wonderful fidelity. The expressions of benevolence which spoke so powerfully in life are depicted wonderfully in the stone. The allegorical figures, with their symbols, are also very cleverly executed.

There was a large assembly to witness the undraping of the statue. Mr. Bright and Mr. Schlegel, the borough members, were present, as were also the Mayor and many members of the Corporation, and several speeches appropriate to the occasion were delivered, in which the speakers paid warm tributes to the memory of the excellent citizen in whose honour the statue has been erected. The following address was also presented to the Mayor of the town by the chairman of the statue committee:—

Sir,—As chairman of the committee I have the duty imposed upon me of making over to you, as representing the Town Council, the statue of the late Mr. Joseph Sturge in trust for the public for ever. The statue has been erected to perpetuate the name and virtues of one who, though possessing none of the advantages of birth and position, and invested with no official dignity, made himself a name among the good men of all lands by the purity of his life and by the active and unostentatious exercise of a philanthropy that embraced all the helpless and suffering of our race. Of Mr. Sturge it may emphatically be said that "he went about continually doing good." Undeterred by ridicule, undaunted by physical difficulties, he endeavoured to avert a disastrous and relentless war. He was a distinguished actor in the work of negro emancipation, in the reclamation of juvenile offenders, in the cause of education, and in numberless other ways he sought to heal the wounds that sin had made in the framework of society. While Birmingham has her memories of successful warriors and eminent statesmen, it seems right and fitting that the graces of benevolence and philanthropy, as embodied in the character of Mr. Sturge, should be held in honour. With this view the statue of Mr. Sturge has been erected, and it is now intrusted to your care in the fervent hope that the example of his beneficent life and this lasting recognition of his virtues may influence generations yet to come.

DEATH OF MR. BUCKLE, THE HISTORIAN.—The premature demise of this gentleman, at the early age of forty years, before the completion of his great work, will be deplored by all—whatever may be their opinions upon religious, social, or political theories—who seek to obtain practical data on which to exercise their judgment. Mr. Buckle, as he himself confessed, had not at the outset fully estimated the magnitude of the labour of such a task as that which he had undertaken, but in his progress he soon discovered that the vastness and the variety of the topics with which he had to deal rendered it almost hopeless that such a work could be accomplished within the number of years allotted to the lifetime of any one writer. In order to write "The History of Civilisation in England" it became necessary to note the advances—perhaps we ought to say the changes—which had taken place in civilisation throughout all the known nations on this earth, and as he proceeded the length of the road before him appeared to increase, so that, at the end of his second volume, the last that has appeared, he had scarcely traversed beyond what formed but a preliminary introduction. His writings were distinguished by the characteristics of an earnest and conscientious mind, and even those who most differed from his conclusions admitted the pre-eminently suggestive nature of his remarks and the industry with which he had applied himself to the collection of facts from the records of all nations, in order to trace, if it be possible, the causes which lead in different countries to different forms of civilisation, according to the difference of the circumstances in which people in such countries are placed. But, although Mr. Buckle did not live to accomplish his undertaking, his labours have not been in vain, for in no other modern work had such a mass of matter, useful to the end which he sought, been collected; and we hope, though perhaps the day may be distant, that some other writer will follow in the same track, whose abilities, industry, and courage will enable him to complete the work which has been so sadly interrupted. Mr. Buckle was born at Lee, Nov. 24, 1822. He died at Damascus, whither he had gone, it is said, to study the phases of civilisation in the East. His father was a wealthy merchant, and he enjoyed the advantages of an excellent education in Dr. James Thomas Holloway's school at Gordon House, Kentish-town, and also of having at his command an excellent and extensive library in his father's house. After leaving Dr. Holloway's school he entered his father's counting-house, but, instead of giving his attention to business, he devoted it to chess, and exhibited so much aptitude for this game that he gained the reputation of being one of the first players in England, if not of the world. His father dying in 1840, and leaving him an ample fortune, he was enabled to indulge his taste for books, and devoted himself thenceforth exclusively to literary pursuits, for which he was by his secluded and studious habits better qualified than for more active occupations.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 189.

A TRAP FOR THE PREMIER.

THERE was no small anxiety in the House and the lobbies when Mr. Walpole startled us by placing that ominous resolution of his upon the books. Every man was asking his neighbour what it meant, and knots of members gathered together to discuss it and to consult as to how they ought to vote; for this resolution was carefully drawn, and was very taking to most of the members, especially to the Conservatives and to the Radicals. Indeed, what it set forth was so true that it seemed almost impossible at first that any man could vote against it; and the general opinion then was that the Premier would accept it. "He will surely accept it," said some of the Radicals, "for if he does not, he will be beaten." "Of course he must accept it," echoed the Conservatives. "What else can he do?" And privately the Conservatives were most of them very jubilant over their position, for they thought they had done a clever trick by this move. They argued, "If he accept it, we shall be masters of the situation and show the country that the Government exists by our sufferance; and if he do not accept it, we shall beat him by a large majority." This was the position of affairs on that Monday night. The Conservatives had set a trap for the Premier, and went to bed quite sure that he must walk into it.

NO GO.

But, "catch a weasel asleep!" Palmerston had seen the trap, and laughed at it, for he knew a thing or two about this trap, which the Radicals knew nothing of, and the Conservatives were quite ignorant that he knew. Thus, there had been a Conservative meeting at the Duke of Marlborough's house in St. James's-square that day—a secret meeting—from which all reporters, friendly or unfriendly, were excluded; but Palmerston knew who were at that meeting to a man; and, what was more to the purpose, he knew also who were not there. Some hundred-and-seventy were present, and some forty, although in town, were not present. This he knew. And on the Tuesday morning the list of all present and all absent were laid upon the table when the Cabinet met—so diligent had been the Government scouts, and so successful. And, further, he knew—that the Conservative whips do not appear to have known—that even if Walpole stood his ground he would not have a majority. This was gathered generally from the fact that those forty were absent, but also on more certain grounds, for most of them had been sounded either directly or indirectly, cautiously and diplomatically. How these cunning emissaries of the Government ascertained the facts about that meeting we will not say; but if our readers will reflect that St. James's-square is a large open place, and that many a garret window commands a view of the Duke of Marlborough's porch, they will not, perhaps, have much difficulty in conceiving how the thing was done. However, it was done. More than one pair of sharp eyes were upon that porch. Every man who entered was seen, and his name taken down; and the list was as accurate as his Grace's hall porter could have made it. When the noble Premier threw down his glove in that bold, defiant way, on Tuesday evening, the Conservatives thought at first that it was a foolish move, and many of the Liberals even shook their heads and doubted. But Palmerston, as we have seen, knew more than they did. To our eyes the Conservative phalanx looked uncommonly formidable, quite unconquerable by any forces which the noble Lord could bring to bear; but he knew that, formidable as it was to appearance, in reality it was so demoralised and so split up into factions that he had nothing to fear. The castle that frowns from the steep may appear impregnable; but what if it be mined, or the guns honeycombed, or the garrison of it disloyal? Well, Lord Palmerston had, by means of his scouts, discovered something like this. He had seen right into the enemy's lines and discovered their weak points, and hence his defiant move on the following day. It was not a reckless, speculative move at all, as some thought it, but founded upon accurate knowledge of circumstances and events; and it was successful, as we have seen.

MR. STANSFELD.

Well, on Tuesday the fight began—began after a preliminary skirmish, in which Palmerston showed his game, or, in other words, threw down his gauntlet and openly challenged his foes. Mr. Stansfeld, of course, led off the ball; and formidable were the difficulties which confronted him when he rose to address the House. The usual difficulties which meet a young aspirant to Parliamentary honours he had oforetime conquered; but now a host of new ones presented themselves before him. When he placed that motion of his upon the books he had no thought of producing such a commotion as that which now seethed around him. All that he intended was just to get up a debate upon retrenchment, to elicit the opinion of the House thereon, to give utterance to his own, and take, if circumstances favoured, a division. Victory he never hoped for. A fight for office and a Ministerial crisis he neither expected nor wanted; but, lo! now he is called upon to rise, with all the elements of faction roaring around. Six amendments had been proposed to his motion. The Premier had been roused to take part in the fight. A Conservative leader of great name and reputation had appeared in the field, and, in short, Mr. Stansfeld found himself standing forth as the originator of a regular fight for place, with a possible Ministerial crisis and perhaps a dissolution of Parliament as the result. No wonder, then, that Mr. Stansfeld was nervous and excited as he rose, with twice four hundred eyes upon him, to commence the proceedings of the night. There was enough actually before him, not to say anything of that which was conjured up by his imagination to affright and baffle a much more practised speaker in the House of Commons than Mr. Stansfeld. It is not, though, too much to say that Mr. Stansfeld overcame these difficulties. He was pale and evidently somewhat agitated when he rose, and for a time his voice was slightly tremulous and his manner constrained; but when he got well under way he was more at ease; his voice expanded to its natural volume, and his manner was less formal, and soon every trace of nervousness disappeared, and he succeeded in delivering a good and effective speech. He had, though, some curious steering to practise in his speech, and must have felt no small difficulty in keeping clear of the snags, and shoals, and shallows which beset his path. In the first place, though he is a Radical and an economist, and was on his legs to advocate retrenchment, he by no means thinks that retrenchment is the *summum bonum*. On the contrary, he has other things at heart far more than economy; the unity of Italy—the liberation of Hungary from the grip of the house of Hapsburg—and, generally, the freedom of all nations. He had, therefore, to give the mere economist and the peace party a wide berth. In the second place, though the Conservative chief has lately been advocating retrenchment, it is no part of Mr. Stansfeld's programme to place Conservatism in power. That is far from him; for he knows well that such an event would by no means promote the cause which is uppermost in his mind. In short, Mr. Stansfeld—though he is a Radical, and sits below the gangway, and was on his legs to advocate retrenchment—holds opinions and burns with aspirations of his own, which he had to be careful not to compromise; and therefore his steering was, as we have said, exceedingly difficult. He, however, succeeded uncommonly well; and, though but a young hand at Parliamentary tactics, steered as deftly and threaded his way as cleverly as the most practised of pilots could have done. It was noticeable, though, that he did not evoke much cheering. Now and then a cheer broke forth, but there was evidently no great enthusiasm. Let not, however, our readers suspect that the speech was not good because it was not uproariously cheered; for cheering here, as elsewhere, is by no means an authentic stamp. Indeed, we should say that, as a rule, the best speeches never call forth much enthusiasm. We cheer sarcastic personal attacks, we cheer witty sayings, and sometimes we cheer uncommonly foolish utterances; but real sterling wisdom, such wisdom as every now and then the late Mr. Drummond, for example, used to flash out—these we do not cheer, but listen to in silence. Mr. Stansfeld's speech was listened to, as all his speeches are, with marked attention, which, to our mind, is better than cheering.

MR. BAXTER.

Mr. Baxter followed Mr. Stansfeld, and he, too, spoke deliberately and well. Some one has said that he spoke disagreeably; but we know not to what this refers, except it be his voice. That is certainly not so musical nor so powerful as Mr. Stansfeld's, but we should not call it disagreeable; and certainly the matter of his speech was anything but disagreeable. Mr. Baxter was not, however, listened to so attentively as his predecessor. But this is easily accounted for. In the first place, he is a more frequent speaker. Every one has heard Mr. Baxter many times, but there were many present who had never before heard Mr. Stansfeld,—and then post time was approaching—and the dinner hour. It is inconceivably annoying to have to rise between the hours of six and eight; and so strongly do some men feel this that we have known them forego the opportunity of speaking at all rather than rise at this unpropitious time. But here there was no avoiding it. Mr. Baxter had agreed to second Mr. Stansfeld's motion, and when the time came, of course, he was obliged to get up. Mr. Baxter, as we have said, spoke well; indeed, he always speaks well. He is not an orator, never attempted oratory in his life; but he speaks solidly and well. His facts are trustworthy; his reasoning is unimpeachable, and, though he rarely excites the House (he did, though, when he exposed the Galway job), he is always listened to with attention and respect. Indeed, Scotland has no better representative in the House, and need wish for no better, than Mr. Baxter. An able, well-informed, honest, independent man, and a good, plain speaker, able to think, who can and dare say what he thinks, "without fear, favour, or hope of reward," and without offence. What can Scotland want more than that? Mr. Stansfeld took the theoretic or rather the abstract part of the argument, Mr. Baxter the arithmetical and practical; each after his kind.

THE CHAMPION.

When Mr. Baxter sat down Lord Palmerston rose; and how the old boy was cheered—cheered before he had spoken a word, just as the people in a theatre welcome a favourite on the stage! His Lordship was not cheered, however, on this occasion for what he was going to say, but simply because there was a fight in hand and he was in the arena as the champion of his party; and really if we had been in the House in the position of a member we should have cheered too, for there was something so spirited, so gallant, in the position which he had assumed, and he looked so hale, and hearty, and plucky, and so evidently enjoyed his position that he fairly took one's sympathies captive. Darby Griffith, who had spoken in the preliminary debate, had said a good thing, which is very unusual for him—"Your object is," said the member for Devizes to the Conservatives around him, "to make the noble Lord at the head of the Government 'eat the leek.'" This unquestionably was the object of some of the Conservative party; and here is the noble Lord himself, ready to submit to the operation if any one can force him to do it. "I am to eat the leek, am I? Well, here I am. Come on if you dare." This was what he seemed to say as he leaped on his feet. And no wonder the House cheered the gallant hero of a hundred fights as he once more confronted his enemies on a field where he had so often fought and conquered before. Of the speech which followed we need say nothing more than this: it was Palmerstonian every word of it. It was bold and defiant to his foes, conciliatory to "his honourable friends," and altogether such a crafty speech as only a wily statesman of half a century's experience could make.

DISRAELI.

Disraeli's task was a hard one. His policy was baffled. The gay phantasmagoria which had for a time danced in prismatic colours before his eyes had vanished, and he had now to cover the retreat of his forces with what skill he could. Mr. Walpole had not yet positively announced that he should withdraw his amendment, but it was certain that he would do so. All fighting was therefore at an end. The Conservative chief spoke for an hour, and spoke very cleverly—never more so. He was sarcastic, wittily criticised the amendment of the noble Lord, ably defended the course which he (Mr. Disraeli) had pursued, bantered the Government in his best style, and sat down amidst the cheers of his adherents more like a victor than a partly-leader defeated. It has been said that Disraeli has no real adherent on that side of the House; but this is a mistake, for Sir Stafford Northcote has evidently closely allied himself, for better or for worse, with his chief; and on this occasion he did the right hon. gentleman great service by handing him up financial calculations as occasion required. Disraeli, though he has been twice Chancellor of the Exchequer, is not thought to be great at figures, except figures of speech; but Sir Stafford, it is well known, is a master in this department of knowledge.

REAPPEARANCE OF MR. COBDEN.

Horsman gave us one of his studied harangues, but we must pass him by, and notice instead the reappearance of Mr. Cobden upon the Parliamentary stage. The throat disease with which Mr. Cobden is unhappily afflicted is so eccentric that, though he may intend to speak, it is never certain that he will be able to carry out his intentions. On this occasion, however, his enemy relaxed his grip for a time, and once more in the old place we saw him rise and heard his well-known voice. He is not, however, exactly the Richard Cobden that we knew some dozen years ago, for Time has laid his hand upon him, as he has upon us all, and in figure and general appearance he is much changed. His voice was, however, strong and equable, and he soon showed us that, though much changed since the old League days, his faculties are as clear as ever, and that he still possesses, as fresh as ever, that power of "unadorned eloquence" which extorted praise from Sir Robert Peel and gained so many triumphs in the beginning of his career. He opened his speech with a quiet reproof to "his right hon. friend Mr. Horsman"—quiet in language as Mr. Cobden always is, but very severe in reality. Mr. Horsman had spoken with characteristic sarcasm, couched in the form of advice, of Mr. Cobden; whereupon hear Mr. Cobden:—

I am induced to offer one or two remarks, especially in reference to the earnest and good-natured appeal made to me by my right hon. friend who has just sat down. I remember once hearing the late Mr. Shell, in a brilliant and pointed sentence, describe my right hon. friend. I speak from memory when I say that Mr. Shell described him as one possessing faculties which peculiarly qualified him to be the exponent of dissatisfaction and the faithful mirror of discontent (Laughter and cries of "No!" from the Opposition). Now, I think that was spoken in 1849, and I can vouch for it that my right hon. friend has deserved that character to the present day (Laughter, cheers, and "No!"). Well, I perceive there is an expression of dissent. I will not, then, say that my right hon. friend is always the exponent of dissatisfaction and the faithful mirror of discontent; for he has this other remarkable quality—that he sometimes expresses himself satisfied and contented; but it is with a state of things which the rest of the world have become discontented with in the extreme (Laughter and cheers).

FINALE.

We could say much upon Mr. Cobden's speech, but space fails. When he sat down the debate closed, a division was called, and the affair was practically settled. Mr. Stansfeld was defeated, Lord Palmerston carried his amendment aided by a great majority of the Conservatives, amongst whom was, notably, Mr. Disraeli. Mr. Walpole withdrew his amendment, and after a very audacious speech from Mr. Osborne; and her from Mr. Disraeli, in which he managed deeply to offend "his right hon. friend" Mr. Walpole, and a defence of that gentleman from Sir William Heathcote, the memorable scene closed—Palmerston triumphant and firmer in his seat than ever, and the Conservatives once more floundering "in a ditch," as Lord Robert Cecil has it, into which they had been led by their clever but injudicious chief.

LIFEBOATS FOR FRANCE.—The Emperor of the French has nominated a commission, consisting of the Ministers of Marine and Finance and the Engineer-in-Chief, to organise a complete system of life-boats on the French coast similar to that now so efficiently in operation on the English coast chiefly under the control of the National Life-boat Institution. France has a seaboard of nearly 900 miles. Hitherto the means of saving life from shipwreck on it has been lamentably deficient. Some engineer officers are now on the French coast gathering every information they can on this important subject. It is expected that they will shortly cross the Channel and visit some of the English life-boat stations.

Imperial Parliament.

THURSDAY, JUNE 12.
HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE BURIALS BILL.

Lord R. CECIL gave notice that on the 25th of June he would move to strike out those clauses in the Burials Bill which permitted the performance of any service, save that of the Church of England, in consecrated ground.

GENERAL BUTLER.

Sir J. WALSH gave notice that, on the order for going into Supply to-morrow, he should inquire whether her Majesty's Government had received official information of the threatened outrages on women by General Butler, of New Orleans, in the event of their treating any United States' soldier with disrespect.

Mr. GREGORY gave notice of a similar question.

AMERICA.

Mr. HOPWOOD gave notice that to-morrow he would ask the Government whether it was their intention to offer mediation for the purpose of putting an end to the war?

ATLANTIC MAIL COMPANY.

Lord DUNKELLIN asked whether the Government had considered the memorial of the Royal Atlantic Mail Company, and whether they had determined on renewing postal communication between Galway and North America?

Lord PALMERSTON said the matter was under the consideration of the Government.

COAL MINES.

Mr. DILLWYN asked whether the Government would introduce any measures to amend the law relative to the working of coal mines?

Sir G. GREY said he would give notice of a bill in the course of a few days. The bill would not have reference to the general question of coal mines, but would provide for a second shaft in every case.

FORTIFICATIONS.

Sir G. C. LEWIS gave notice that on the 23rd of June he would move for leave to bring in a bill to extend the Act relating to fortifications.

The House went into Committee of Supply, and the consideration of the remaining Estimates was proceeded with.

THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.

WHIT MONDAY.

MONDAY was the first day at the exhibition of which it can be said that the result corresponded with the anticipations. Certainly the sanguine speculators who backed Whit Monday for 80,000 visitors were disappointed; but the exhibition drew as large a share of the holiday-makers as could reasonably have been expected, and even on the very imperfect showing of the turnstiles the numbers ran very much higher than on any previous day. The official returns put the numbers at 58,682; but the turnstiles appear to have worked badly, and very little reliance can be placed on their records. Several of them struck work altogether, and even had they been in the most perfect order, their information would have been little worth, as far as the southern entrance was concerned; for there, about eleven o'clock, the rush was so great that additional doors had to be opened entirely out of their range, and the police for some time acted as money-takers. The receipts have all along been in excess of the returns, and, judging from the general aspect of the building, when the accounts of Monday are made up we have little doubt but that they will show a total attendance of close upon 65,000. It was, in fact, the first "people's day;" for it needed not a second glance to show that the vast majority of the visitors who filled every portion of the building were *bona fide* holiday folks. Here and there one met stray season-ticket holders, who had stepped in to see the crowd, or occasional parties of the middle class, who might have paid their half-crowns, but who evidently didn't mind being crushed in the cause of economy, or visitors from the country, whose short stay allows them no time to pick their days; but, with these few exceptions, the "people" had the exhibition entirely to themselves.

The most popular part of the show was decidedly the machinery in motion, and the western annexe was thronged all day long. The people penetrated to every corner, mounted the platforms of the monster sugar-mills, dived into the foreign railway-carriages, sounded the great Bochum bell, fatigued themselves with the Austrian ventilating-shaft; and not a few of them, particularly the infants of tender years (who of course were present in great force), must have made themselves seriously ill with the large lumps of ice which the exhibitors of the refrigerators were kind enough to distribute liberally all round. The carpet-looms and the beautiful models of marine and other engines were very potent attractions; but down the little strip where the diamond cutting machine, the turner's lathe, the needle-machine, and the electric light stand all in a row, the crowd was very thick, and at some periods of the day it was next to impossible to elbow one's way through it.

The picture-galleries were well filled too; in fact, there was not a single department of the exhibition which could complain of being neglected on Monday. One of the chief objects of attraction down below was the display of gold dust and nuggets which has just been uncovered in the Victoria Court; but it was evident that there was a good deal of scepticism afloat as to the genuineness of these valuable lumps. The gold trophy, too, indicating the quantity of gold exported from Australia since the opening of the diggings, which is situated near the majolica fountain, was a great object of interest, though some of the visitors did not seem exactly to comprehend its purport. For instance, a party who had not advanced near enough to read the inscriptions at its base were observed studying it very curiously in an evident state of perplexity as to its use. It was just at the closing hour, when all the cases of delicate goods in the neighbourhood were being rapidly draped over for the evening, and at last the genius of the party, struck with a sudden inspiration, cried out, "Ah! I know; it's what the policemen cover up the china fountain with of a night."

Of the whole 58,682 recorded, 55,607 are supposed to have paid at the doors, and 3075 to have entered by season tickets, though no doubt many who paid their shillings passed through the season-ticket turnstiles. Another feature of the day was the early hour at which the building filled. There were more than 13,000 visitors at eleven o'clock, and at one o'clock more than 40,000 had entered—an unusually large proportion of the total number for the day.

As an account of Whit Monday at the exhibition would be incomplete without some allusion to the creature comforts, we obtained from the English refreshment department the following approximate statistics of the food consumed by the visitors; and, as M. Veillard was most probably equally patronised, the reader can form from them a tolerable clear estimate of the day's consumption. We put them down at random as they were read out to us from the order-book:—200 quarts of milk, 4 tons of ice, 38 lb. of fresh strawberries, 250 dozen 2s. pork pies, and 150 dozen at 1s., 4500 lb. of fresh meat, 150 hams of 20 lb. each, 100 neat's tongues; 50 rounds of beef, 30 lb. to 50 lb each; 6 casks of pickles, 600 lb. of maccaroons, 600 dozen of sponge cakes, 1 ton of seed and Genoa cakes; 160 pigeons, for pies and potting; 250 chickens, 20 salmon, 200 lobsters 20 turbot, 50 lb of eels, 10,000 buns, 100 dozen of sponge cakes, 130 quarts of cream, 4000 lb. of household bread, 120 sandwich loaves of 6 lb. each, 6000 dinner rolls, 250 French rolls, 200 dozen of Queen and sponge cakes, &c.

THE PIPING BULLFINCHES IN THE SWISS COURT.

One feature in this court, which abounds with beautiful contrivances in connection with watch and clock work, as well as in objects of art-workmanship of all descriptions, has been a never-failing source of attraction since the opening of the exhibition, and seems to increase every day in popularity. The first thing of the sort exhibited, and which still keeps up its prestige, is a little snuffbox, exhibited by Messrs. Aubert and Linton, in the lid of which is a small medallion, which, rising, displays a bird of tiny size and exquisite proportions, decked with a brilliant plumage of real feathers. The little creature moves about after the most natural fashion, cocks its head with true birdlike impudence, flaps its wings, and, opening its beak, carols deliciously, ending its song with a brilliant cadence, at the close of which it disappears, in a manner and with a suddenness pre-eminently comical. The breed of these Swiss piping bullfinches seems to increase in a ratio commensurate with their popularity. One of the exhibitors

lately produced a striking novelty in this ingenious branch of the horologist's art. It was a little cage of golden wire, and upon the perch within hopped two beautiful birds, which fluttered and sang in a manner so natural and obliging as to throw the ladies into ecstasies. In front of the drawer of the cage was a clock face, so that this beautiful toy, the price of which is only £160, is contrived to combine the useful with the ornamental. People are very much puzzled to learn how the intricate machinery necessary to make these birds sing is got into bodies not larger than a moderate-sized bean; but the truth is that the machinery is not there at all, but in the box underneath, the music being conveyed through slender pipes to the bird's bill, and the wires which cause the wings to flutter are also worked by springs underneath.

THE STAR OF THE SOUTH.

In the Netherlands Court, Mr. M. E. Coster, of Amsterdam, (No. 362), exhibits some diamonds in the rough and others cut and polished. Amongst the latter is the "Star of the South," a stone of great brilliance and purity, and of a very large size. It is well known in Europe, and has been mentioned in M^{me}. Barceira's elaborate work upon precious stones as being the largest stone for sale in Europe. It weighs 125 carats, or 500 grains. Mr. Coster is known as possessing the largest manufactory for cutting diamonds at Amsterdam, and therefore in the world. He was employed to cut the Koh-i-noor, which Messrs. Garrard now re-exhibit as a masterly piece of diamond-cutting. In the western annexe, class 7, No. 1627, Messrs. Hunt and Roskell exhibit the process, where a diamond-cutter may be seen at work—a branch of industry which is curious, and therefore attractive, and which has already afforded amusement to many, and amongst them to Princess Alice and the younger branches of the Royal family.

THE PICTURE-GALLERIES.

We this week present our readers with a Supplement in the shape of an elaborately-engraved view of the picture-galleries at the exhibition, which we are sure will be acceptable to them. These galleries are unquestionably one of the most beautiful as well as instructive features of the grand display at South Kensington, and even a lengthened inspection of them will be well repaid. New points of attraction present themselves at each successive visit, and, whether in the department devoted to the British or to the foreign schools, the wealth of beauty and excellence is so great as to be almost inexhaustible.

There were some apprehensions that a collective exhibition of British and foreign art placed in juxtaposition would by comparison be prejudicial to the former. This fear was, strange to say, entertained more by the British artists than by the public. Our artists had, perhaps, never, many of them, seen the annual exhibitions on the Continent, and not all of them had visited the splendid display made by our school at Manchester in 1857. Be this as it may, all foreboding must be for ever set at rest by the galleries of the International Exhibition, and we shall probably hear less of the ignorant laudation of the stereotyped "grand style," the insipid "heroic" in the hackneyed sense, than we have been accustomed to do.

The present British gathering will certainly bear comparison with any of or all the foreign schools combined. The higher departments of history and poetry are, it is true, not so profusely illustrated as the lower; but still we have here some of as good work of this kind as our competitors, while in various branches of genre and landscape we almost stand alone; as much so as the French do in one particular class—to wit, their representations of battles and military spectacles. Not that we would underrate the noble aims and grand national achievements of some of the Continental schools; nor shall we, from the comparatively meagre display, compared with our own, of nearly all those schools, draw hasty inferences. But we must claim for the British school—and our foreign visitors will recognise, greatly to their surprise from the little that is known of our insular art abroad, that it has, during the short century of its existence, manifested astonishing richness and variety of excellence—that it has a surprising freedom from the conventionalisms of art so prevalent all over Europe; that it has an originality, a freshness, an individuality, a freedom from prejudice, and from the dull routine of old-masterish traditions, which is of genuine English growth, and proves its inherent vitality.

It should, however, always be borne in mind that there are many causes to prevent the art of any country ever being so well represented beyond its limits as in its own capital. In the Exhibition of the Champs Elysées we were relatively, perhaps, seen to less advantage than the French are here. It must also be remembered that we have taken a greater latitude in respect to time. It was determined by the commissioners that we should make our choice among the works of the century ending with the present year, and that other countries should be left free to fix their own limits. No foreign country, however, except Russia and Austria, appears to have taken the same latitude as ourselves: with those exceptions, they seem to have confined themselves to the works of living artists. France, however, making up for limiting herself to the works by living artists executed within the last ten years, by admitting those by deceased painters, if executed within twenty years.

The six thousand works of art, exclusive of sculpture—paintings, drawings, engravings, or designs for art-manufactures—here assembled, are arranged on the upper floor of the building in galleries which extend the whole length of its southern front and two wings. The whole southern galleries are filled with oil-pictures. The lower galleries along the eastern and western faces contain water-colour drawings, and cartoons, architectural designs, and engravings. All along the foreign galleries on the west, however, oil-pictures, for which room could not be found in the main gallery, have been hung among the drawings and engravings; and the Russian and American pictures are in the northernmost gallery of the western face. The main entrance is in the centre of the building, facing Cromwell-road, the British galleries being on the right, and the foreign on the left, of the entrance. Thus the space is equally divided, following the precedent of the French in 1855. It was not unreasonably considered, in both cases, that the art of the exhibiting country might fairly claim to be most fully represented.

The main galleries are admirably lighted, and certainly the most spacious in existence. What might be their too monotonous length is broken by the piers of the flanking towers, and in the British Gallery by groups of statuary backed by maroon drapery, arranged at intervals all round the tea-green walls. Smaller works of sculpture form an avenue down the centre.

ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—The second grand fete of this society took place on Wednesday, and was attended, broken weather notwithstanding, with great success. A more numerous or fashionable assemblage has rarely been brought together to acknowledge the attractions of a floral display than that which on this occasion occupied the garden at South Kensington. The aspect of the morning threatened to interfere with the success of the exhibition; but though showers fell at intervals during the afternoon, and detracted from the pleasure of the promenade, they seemed to have no effect upon the number of visitors, and only led to a greater amount of homage being paid to the more immediate objects of the assemblage. The wisdom of providing against capricious weather by having the entire show under cover was amply justified by the experience of this as well as of former exhibitions. A few nights since the large tent in which it was intended that the exhibition should be held was blown down, and the collection, which was most extensive and meritorious, had in consequence to be arranged under the western arcade. If the visitors were deprived of the effect which the artistic piling and grouping of such a magnificent display would have had under canvas, they had full compensation in the greater opportunity which was afforded of examining the various classes in detail, and in the vista of brilliant colouring which was presented in the greater space. In all its departments the exhibition was excellent, the pelargoniums particularly, which were in endless variety, eliciting universal admiration, and fastening the eye with the profuseness and beauty of their blooms. Stove and greenhouse plants, orchids, and other exotics, azaleas, roses in pots, calceolarias, and ornamental plants were all well represented, and were much admired. Some ingenious implements were shown under the eastern arcade, but the attention bestowed on them by the general company was not proportionate to their usefulness or merits. Military bands were in attendance during the afternoon, and performed a well-selected programme. The value of the prizes offered was £546.

THE FLOOD IN THE FENS.

ACCORDING to late accounts from the scene of disaster in the Fens considerable alarm has been caused by the discovery that the hole which has been found to be scoured near the Wash-bridge (opposite the first breach) is considerably larger and more serious than was at first thought. On Monday the result of dipping gave some intimation of the fact, but the full realisation was not made till a diver went down. It appears that the hole which was scoured is five or six chains long, and about five or six feet lower than the bottom of the drain, penetrating the side of the drain to an extent of from fifteen to twenty feet. It was thought that this hole was scoured by the water which gained admission into the cut through the bursting of a culvert, but the examination by the diver at once upset that hypothesis, and the culvert, beyond possible leakage, was found to be all right. The water must therefore enter the drain through the lower part of the breach, which was supposed to be well stopped up. The culvert consists of a pipe about 2 ft. 6 in. in diameter, and it has been found that the centre of it rests upon the bed of the cut, whilst the sides have been undermined. Loose earth and earth in bags are being thrown into the hole, and every effort that can possibly be put forth is being made to prevent its extension and fill it up. This hole is considerably larger than the first one discovered. On the part of the Marshland commissioners, Mr. Page, C.E., on Monday, made a thorough examination of the banks of the drain in which those commissioners were interested, with what results we have not been informed.

A correspondent, writing from the Fens a few days ago, says:—

On our journey along the skirt of a considerable portion of the inundated fen we passed in succession two wooden bridges which had been literally smashed to pieces by some barges that had been employed lower down the drain in the construction of an abortive dam, but had been driven by the flood with remorseless fury up the stream, to the utter destruction of bridges and everything else that stood in their way. On landing we beheld a busy scene. The banks were lined with sacks of clay to the number of many thousands, and bodies of men were engaged in digging up more earth and filling in new sacks. Sawpits had been extemporised and immense piles of timber lay about. Across the drain at this point, about three miles and a half nearer the sluice than the broken embankment, the cofferdam is being erected under the direction of Mr. Smith. It is confidently believed that this formidable structure will completely stop, as it has already arrested, the ravages of the sea. Not only was the enormous framework of beams finished, but ten pile-driving engines were hard at work driving in the two rows of piles to the depth of twenty feet in the bed of the river. In order to counteract the buoyancy of the wood and to give additional strength to the dam, iron panels are to be driven into the piles beneath the water. The space between the two rows of piles is to be filled with sacks of clay and with puddle, immense quantities of which have already been made. Should the dam prove an effectual barrier against the fierce attacks of the ocean tides, there is some idea of carrying off the drainage-water by means of siphons at the top of the dam, and the hope is held out that in three months the land may be dry again. The upper dam, which is in some respects both novel and ingenious, is intended to be a permanent structure; but the commissioners have not decided whether a new sluice will be necessary.

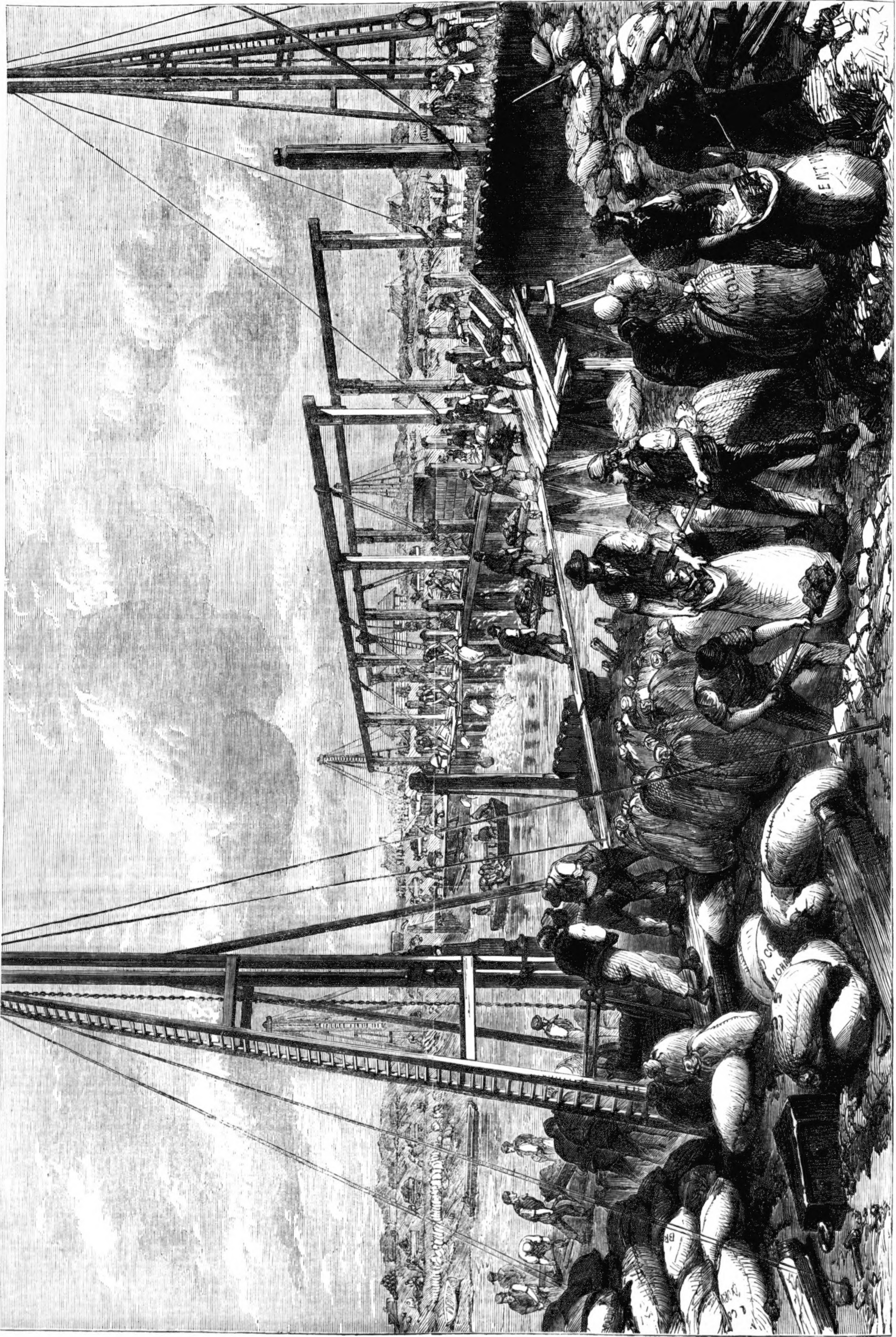
About nine hundred yards above the cofferdam we arrived at the sluice, where all the mischief originated. Before the accident it guarded the entrance of the Middle-Level drain, at the point of its junction with the Ouse. Now, however, the sluice presented an extraordinary spectacle. Two of the arches lay a mishapen mass in the bed of the river. The fierce destroyer had split asunder the solid masonry and rent gigantic figures in the massive ironwork. One hanging arch, which still remains, presents a most picturesque appearance. Gaping with enormous apertures in both the iron plating above the door and the substantial brickwork, it looks as if the assault of every new tide would prove too strong for its weakened powers of resistance, and hurl it piecemeal into the drain. Until a few minutes before the accident the bridge was crowded with spectators; but happily a preliminary warning enabled them to get off in time. A retreating army might have blown it up with gunpowder, or battered it down with cannon balls, so thoroughly had the work of destruction been performed. The elements never gave a more signal proof of their mastery over the seemingly invulnerable works of man. The swift-rolling waters, too, roar and sweep down the drain and through the broken arches and debris of the sluice, as if indulging in mockery at the ruin they have committed, or in a strain of wild defiance and triumph.

Communications from the Fens state that on Wednesday afternoon it was determined that an attempt should be made to complete the cofferdam sufficiently to stop the water. The fourth row of panels were dropped on the flood tide, and the tidal water was actually stopped, to the satisfaction of everybody. They were dropped in at about half-past four o'clock; but by half-past five it became painfully apparent to all that the dam had burst, from the boiling, seething waters on the upper side of the dam. The panels had been undermined. It was found to be necessary to take up the portions of panels, otherwise it was feared that the whole dam would be carried away. As soon as this was done the water again rushed up the cut with considerable force. A portion of the galleys frame was broken down by the lifting of the panels. As soon as the water got at the highest point, at flood time, some divers were sent down to ascertain the extent of the damage. They found that one of the panels had been completely shattered, whilst a number of others were doubled up into various shapes. Two or three of the principal piles were also broken, and the bottom of the cut was scoured to a great depth.

ACCIDENT ON THE LONDON, CHATHAM, AND DOVER RAILWAY.—An accident from the collision of two excursion-trains occurred on the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway on Monday morning, a short distance from the Chatham station. Taking advantage of the low fares advertised by the railway companies, several hundred persons availed themselves of the holiday on Whit Monday to visit the Crystal Palace. An excursion-train accordingly left Sheerness, Sittingbourne, and some other stations below Chatham, at nine o'clock. On arriving at the Chatham station, which it reached about ten o'clock, five additional carriages had to be added to the train, raising the number of carriages to seventeen. It was then found necessary to attach another engine to the train, and to enable this to be done the excursion-train had to be backed down the up line into the Chatham-hill tunnel. Mr. Brodick, the station manager, knowing that a heavy excursion-train from Dover to Victoria was about due, directed the telegraph clerk to forward a message to the next down station, at New Brompton, with orders to stop the Dover train until the line was signalled as clear; and it was not until the message had been dispatched that the train was backed into the tunnel. From some mistake, the Dover excursion-train, which almost immediately after arrived at New Brompton, was not stopped, but allowed to continue its journey on to Chatham, towards which it was proceeding at its usual rate of speed. The servants at the Chatham station are positive in their statements that the signals on the down side of the tunnel were against the train; but, whether this was really the case or not, the driver of the Dover excursion-train ran into the tunnel, and, in the space of a minute, came into violent collision with the other excursion-train. It was fortunate that the train was going at something under ten miles an hour, or the loss of life must have been very great, as there were upwards of 1,500 passengers in the two trains. As it was, the shock of the two trains is described as being most alarming, whilst the shrieks and cries of the injured passengers, as well as the other persons in the train, were of a most heartrending character, added to which the confusion was fearful, as it was known that the express-train was then due in the tunnel. On the injured passengers being removed it was found that nearly twenty were more or less wounded, though it is hoped none fatally so. The passengers in the Dover excursion-train escaped without any injury whatever. After a delay of some time those of the excursionists who preferred returning left the train, which then proceeded onwards, the ordinary traffic not having been interfered with.

THE GREAT EASTERN.—This vessel has just finished another successful voyage from New York to Liverpool, at which port she arrived on Wednesday morning, after a detention of nine hours outside the bar for want of water. She left New York on the morning of the 1st of June, and so great was the desire of shippers to send their produce by this vessel that upwards of £1000 worth of freight was left behind. The big ship brings 500 passengers, 56,000 dols. in specie, and upwards of 6000 tons of cargo—consisting principally of wheat, corn, and provisions. While lying at New York the Great Eastern was opened for a few days for exhibition, and upwards of 3000 people daily visited the vessel. On the voyage to Liverpool the ship encountered very severe headwinds yet so steady was her motion that the doctor had a "clean bill of health" all the way, and the passengers, instead of being "inconvenienced" by sea-sickness, spent a very jolly time of it in concerts, balls, hurdle-races on deck, &c.

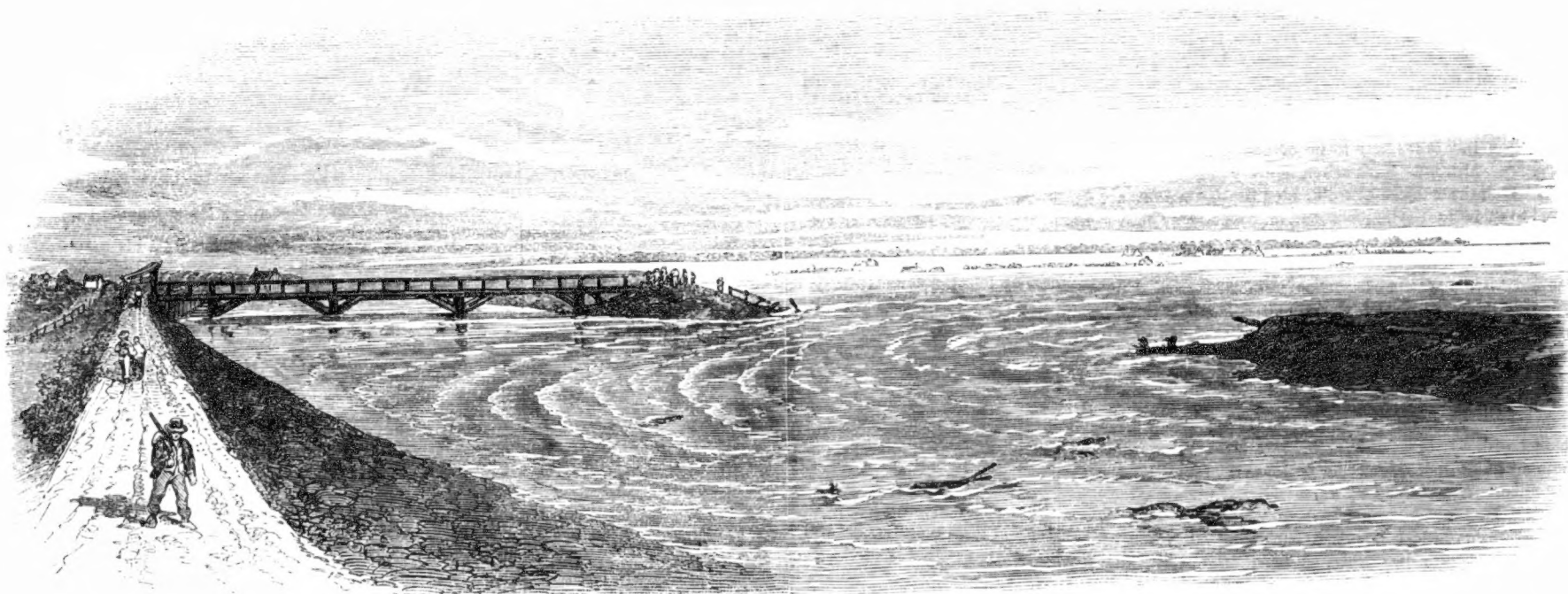
CAPTURE OF AN ENGLISH STEAMER BY AN AMERICAN CRUISER.—The English steamer Circassian, from Bordeaux to Havannah, with a cargo of wine, brandy, coffee, and provisions, but, it is said, with no ammunition or contraband of war whatever, has been captured by a Federal cruiser off the last-named port. The captain of the Circassian protested against the seizure of his ship on the ground that he had no intention of breaking the blockade of the Southern States of America, but was bona fide bound for the port mentioned in his papers. An investigation of the circumstances under which the Circassian was captured will, of course, be made; and if it shall appear that the captain's statement is true, and that the Americans had no good ground for seizing the vessel, it is expected that the British Government will demand the restitution of the ship and compensation for the injury caused by her detention.



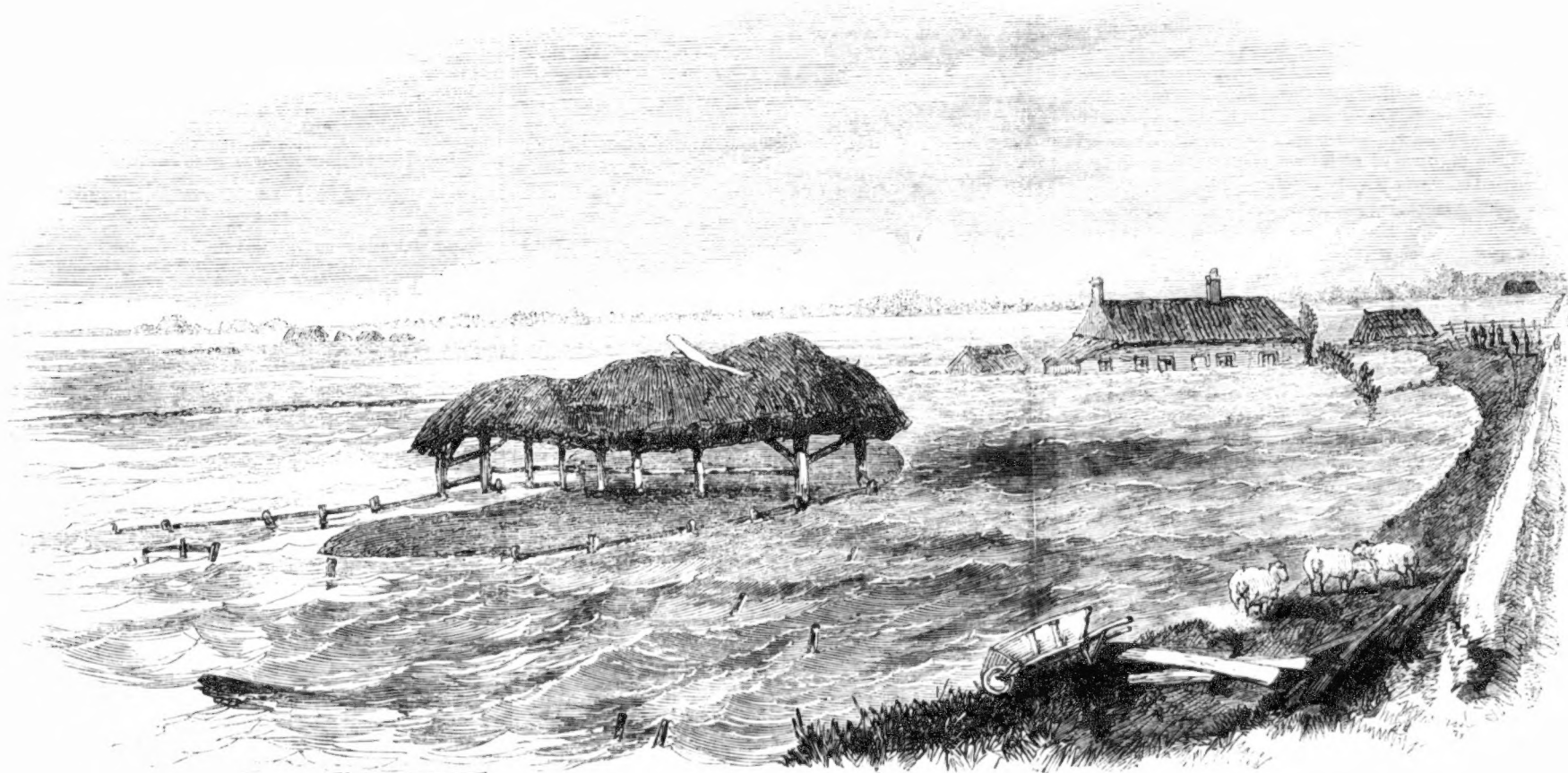
THE MARSHLAND INUNDATION.—THE COFFERDAM IN COURSE OF CONSTRUCTION.



THE MARSHLAND INUNDATION.—LITTLE'S BRIDGE.



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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 1862.

THE SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION.

FOR the last few days the proceedings of the Association for the Advancement of Social Science have been prominently enough reported in the daily journals. Famous names have appeared as those of speakers delivering harmless generalisations, with not a few well-worn platitudes. Other names, never heard before by the public, have headed remarks of a kind which lead us to anticipate never hearing of the speakers again. The great old Lord Brougham has delivered a résumé of the social and political history of the past year—a marvel of memory, industry, and arrangement of ideas—a feat of a character to make all mankind rejoice, as the intellectual exercise of a hard-working man past his eightieth year. Women, too, have spoken upon the reclamation of female convicts, upon the extension of feminine employment, also upon the improving influences to be brought to bear upon the African races. There have also been wonderful essays upon those subjects which nobody understands, and about which people are apt to suspect that those who know the least write and talk the most—such as “the systematic teaching of rules of conduct in harmony with the truths of economic science,” “the reform of the monetary laws,” the “proper situation of metropolitan hospitals”—which it was argued should be exactly six miles from the metropolis—and so forth.

The first and most necessary question with respect to the association is, “Is it likely to be of public benefit?” This is the query which must have arisen in every intelligent company upon which the subject has obtruded itself. We are not disposed to allow to the association, or congress as it is sometimes called, a tithe of the merit which it appears ambitious of arrogating to itself. We believe that the gentleman who has instituted a system of convict reform in Ireland, or the lady who has established a workshop for female law stationers in London, has done a better thing than talking about it, even in the metropolis, before a crowd of philanthropic old gentlemen, wearied swells, and elegant ladies in spoon-bonnets.

It is undeniable that the affair has a ridiculous side. We find that when the subject turns upon the ways and means of dealing with criminals, and promises enlivening anecdotes of these misguided but interesting persons, the room is tolerably well filled. When an essay is to be read upon a subject so practical as that of “improved dwellings for the working classes,” the president is seized with gout, all three of the vice-presidents are incapacitated from attendance, and the audience, six only at the beginning, at no time numbers more than twelve or fourteen. There is one subject brought forward apparently with the main object of introducing as a speaker a “coloured lady.” The “coloured person,” it is well known, is always a great attraction to audiences of a certain class. But whether that class fairly represents the intellect of the country is a question on which opinions may vary, according to the capacities of the thinker. The meeting in Westminster Hall was, of course, a triumphant success. But, as the grand old banqueting-room was announced to be carpeted and illuminated with additional candelabra for the occasion, those who attribute the presence of at least a portion of the visitors to the promised spectacle may be allowed some excuse.

But, taking more legitimate grounds of objection and speaking in all seriousness, we should much like to know what are the qualifications required in those who read, preside, or discuss, at the meetings of the “congress.” Who and what are those strange people of whom one reads in all the full glory of leaded type making the commonest of commonplace remarks? How are they collected? Is any kind of guarantee secured that, instead of advancing social science, they will not do, as a tautological speaker once expressed it, “on the contrary, quite the reverse?”

Here, for instance, is the Hon. George Denman, barrister, of the Temple, of the Home Circuit and Middlesex Sessions, and also member of Parliament. We do not remember ever having heard good or harm of the hon. gentleman before this, either at the Bar or in the House. But now we find him, all at once, president of a Social Science meeting, whereat he discourseth marvellously (in the absence of Sir Fitzroy Kelly). An essay on jurisprudence is delivered by an under-clerk at the Mansion House, whereupon the Hon. George Denman, in the face of all the wicked, foolish, and shameful decisions which have vexed the public ear for years past, expresses his approval of the existing system of an unpaid magistracy. This system, says he, affords “an admirable inducement to country gentlemen to acquire a knowledge of English law.”

Fiat experimentum in corpore vili. Amateur Judges are good enough for the rural population. We should have thought that the duty of a justice was not so much to learn the law as

to teach it practically by his administration of it. If the system of non-payment be a good one, why is it not followed in the towns? Why should country gentlemen, above all others, have held out to them an “admirable inducement” to study the laws? Look at them how you may, the three reported lines of Mr. Denman's speech involve the inquiring reader in a knot of bewilderment and difficulty. All this is at once cut to pieces by admitting him to be utterly wrong; but then how came he in the chair at a Social Science meeting?

Regarding with utter impartiality the whole proceedings of this association, it appears to us that it in some way resembles the British flag. The union-jack is not, *per se*, of the slightest use. It shows which way the wind blows, a fact of which there are seldom two opinions. But it is inestimable as a symbol. So, in like manner, is the “Congress.” As the flag floating over every sea typifies the commerce, the energy, and the valour of the nation, so the existence—nay, even the fashionableness—of this association shows that the progress of the human race in every moral and social direction is an object in high favour with Englishmen. A few years ago, save in a few esoteric circles, those who have within the last few days calmly and philosophically advocated plain truths before approving audiences of the higher classes would have been sneered at as visionaries or persecuted as “levellers.” In this respect we cannot but admit that the association has effected some good, and may effect much more. It is something to familiarise humanity with the prospect of improvement. And in this respect the Congress may be fairly considered to be of no small public utility; while, on the other hand, even the premiums which it offers to the vanity of the “small men” may tend to the coherence and the continued vitality of the society.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY will leave Windsor for Osborne on the 18th inst. Her Majesty is in the enjoyment of excellent health, and takes daily drives in the vicinity of the park and other secluded retreats in the neighbourhood.

THE COURT went into mourning on Thursday week for her late Royal Highness the Grand Duchess of Hesse.

AFTER THE MARRIAGE OF PRINCESS ALICE, which will positively take place on the 1st proximo, the Royal bride and bridegroom will retire to the beautiful seat of Captain Harcourt at St. Clare, Ryde, Isle of Wight.

THE QUEEN, since her return to Windsor, has visited the Royal Mausoleum at Frogmore, and appears deeply interested in the progress of this intended resting-place for her Royal consort.

THE EMPRESS OF AUSTRIA, who is very weak and ill, is now taking the waters at Kissingen, where she is likely to remain for the next six weeks. Her Majesty, who was accompanied by the Emperor of Austria to Munich, travelled under the name of Countess Hohenembs.

A MARRIAGE is arranged to take place shortly between Viscount Holmesdale, eldest son of Earl and Countess Amherst, and Lady Julia Cornwallis, only child of the late Earl Cornwallis.

QUEEN ISABELLA OF SPAIN has just decorated two statues of the Virgin with the military order of St. Ferdinand! There was a grand ceremony at the installation.

IT IS RUMORED that Major-General Sir Edward Lugard, permanent Under Secretary of State for War, is to have one of the vacant regiments.

THE BELGIAN JOURNALS state that the Grand Duke Michael of Russia will arrive at Brussels in the course of July, and will thence proceed to London to visit the exhibition.

LETTERS FROM THE SOUTHERN STATES OF AMERICA estimate the last year's crop of cotton at 4,200,000 bales, the present year's crop at 550,000.

A SKELETON having been discovered at the Bow Bridge, Leicester, some of the antiquarians assert that the remains are those of Richard III.

A FEW DAYS ago the wife of Mr. Henry Graham, of Mitcham, was safely delivered of three fine children—two boys and a girl. There was one more child, making four in all, but it was stillborn.

THE WINNINGS OF MR. SNEWING, owner of Caractacus, in this year's Derby, are stated to amount to something over £20,000, exclusive of the stakes—£6525—not “the most valuable Derby on record,” as announced by a sporting weekly contemporary; the stakes in Musjid's year amounted to £6750.

THE EXPLOSION OF GAS IN SHOREDITCH, by which a woman named Hannah Smith was killed, has been declared by the coronor's jury to have been caused by the negligence of the contractors of sewers.

THE OLD CHARTER OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT, in the United States, granted by Charles II. two hundred years ago, still hangs in the office of the Secretary of State at Hartford, the capital of the State.

BARNUM HAS GOT THE SMALLEST BABY IN THE WORLD at his Museum in New York. It is a boy, eight months old, and weighing only twenty-three ounces. The child is well formed and healthy. His head and arm can pass through a man's finger-ring.

A POOR FRENCHMAN, whose wife aroused him from sleep with the cry “Get up, Baptiste, there is a robber in the house!” answered sensibly “Don't let us molest him. Let him explore the house awhile, and if he should find anything of value we will take it away from him.”

THE COMMITTEE of the City of London Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, Victoria Park, have just received a legacy of £500, free of duty, under the will of the late Mr. Philip Van de Wail.

THE ACCOUNTS which have been received of the state of the crops on the different points which constitute the district which principally supplies Paris are most favourable. The wheat is thriving in the most satisfactory manner.

THE KING OF THE BELGIANS underwent another lithotritic operation on the 4th, which had the effect of alleviating the local pain. The general health of his Majesty is satisfactory, but the King will not be able to come to England to be present at the marriage of Princess Alice with Prince Louis of Hesse.

A FARMER'S WIFE, named Samoy, aged thirty-eight, residing at Heule, Belgium, has given birth to three boys, who, with their mother, are doing well. The mother was in such good health that on the following day she expressed a wish to get up and pursue her ordinary occupations.

BARON KERVYN DE LETTENHOVE, author of the “Histoire des Flandres,” has discovered in the Paris Library no less a treasure than the autobiography of Charles V., the existence of which has always been supposed probable.

THE INQUEST on the children of Mr. and Mrs. Vyse has resulted in a verdict of “Wilful murder” against their unhappy mother, who has been committed to Newgate to await her trial.

THE BRAZILIAN CABINET, at the commencement of the Session of the General Assembly on the 7th ult., presented projects of law for the reduction of the standing army from 20,000 to 14,000 men, and of the Imperial navy from 4000 to 3000 men.

THERE IS A REPORT that there will be a congress in London of the Democrats of different nations who have arrived here with the ostensible object of seeing the exhibition.

SOME OF THE LETTERS RECEIVED FROM ROME state that the Bishops who have reached that city have handed over to the Pope a sum of 500,000 Roman crowns (rather more than 2,500,000*l.*) collected as Peter's Pence.

A MR. WILLIAM GOODING, of Dalston, was killed while driving home from the Derby. He had his knees crushed, and died on being lifted to the top of an omnibus.

INTELLIGENCE HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM REVEL that the steam-ship Trent, Captain Brown, on her voyage from Hull to Cronstadt, with passengers and goods, has been stranded at Neckman's Ground. Crew and passengers saved.

THE METHODISTS have 313 clergymen in the Federal army, holding the following positions:—Colonels, 4; Lieutenant-Colonels, 2; Major, 1; Captains, 35; other commissioned officers, 20; privates, 10; Chaplains, 210.

ELISE JAHREIS, a fine young German woman, has drowned herself in the Thames. She was a governess; but her salary—£10 per annum—was so small that she became involved in pecuniary difficulties, and the distress of mind thus caused doubtless led to the commission of the suicidal act.

THE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL have confirmed the decision of the Court of Arches against the Rev. Mr. Heath, Vicar of Broadg. in the Isle of Wight. Mr. Heath had appealed to the committee, but, as it appears, unsuccessfully. He was tried for his heretical doctrines. The living has been declared vacant.

IT IS UNDERSTOOD that the Judge of the Admiralty Court, the Right Hon. Stephen Lushington, is about to resign, and that he will be succeeded by Baron Wilde, whose state of health induces him to relinquish the more lucrative, but more arduous, seat on the common-law bench.

THE ROYAL PRICES OF ITALY have just set out on a long tour, of which the following is the itinerary:—From Genoa they will proceed to the island of Sardinia; thence they will successively visit Sicily, Naples, Constantinople, Smyrna, Rhodes, Cyprus, Syria, Egypt, the Barbary States, Tripoli, and Tunis, whence they will return to Genoa.

NESTROY, a renowned dramatic author and comedian of Austria, who for thirty years was one of the idols of the inhabitants of Vienna, has just died there. Between 40,000 and 50,000 persons were assembled in the streets through which the coffin containing the mortal remains of the Austrian Aristophanes were carried.

A WELL-KNOWN LONDON SOLICITOR, of the name of Dodd, of the firm of Tate and Dodd, disappeared a few days ago from Wimbledon Common, where he was residing for the benefit of his health. Mr. Dodd's body has since been found in the Thames, and it is believed that he had missed his way and fallen into the river accidentally.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

IN the political world there is not a mouse stirring. The only thing that I have to notice is the non-political gathering at Westminster Palace on Saturday. This was a very brilliant scene. Westminster Hall has never looked so gay since the coronation of George IV., when the banquet was held there, and the champion in armour pranced in and threw down his gage. On Saturday the hall was lighted up by some hundreds of additional burners. On the east side there was a row of refreshment-tables extending to the full length of the hall and plentifully studded with wax candles. The great doors at the northern end were closed, and there upon a platform were ranged the band of the Coldstreams in their brilliant uniforms. The doors of the courts were blocked up by pyramidal banks of greenery. The floor was, down the middle, covered with red cloth, as were also the broad steps at the southern end. And, looking down from the gallery under the great window at the southern end, when the hall was filled by a brilliant assemblage of ladies and gentlemen, the scene was simply magical. The company was not, however, confined to the old hall, for St. Stephen's Gallery, the central hall, the lobbies, and two Houses, were lighted up, and every place was crowded by the visitors. The reception took place in the House of Commons lobby, where Lord Brougham and Lord Shaftesbury stood for an hour or two receiving the company. Such was the crush at one time in the doorway leading from St. Stephen's Gallery into the central hall that serious accidents were feared. A stream of people was mounting the steps that lead from St. Stephen's Gallery into the central hall, another stream was pouring out of the central hall into the gallery, and in the doorway there was so frightful a jam that mischief seemed imminent. But at the critical moment Inspectors Moran and Grant came on to the scene, and, by dint of persuasion, remonstrance, and careful but resolute handling of the mob of ladies and gentlemen which was pressing down the stairs, succeeded in forcing back the crowd and clearing the passage to allow those coming up to get through. It was a delicate task, and some of the ladies were loudly remonstrant; but it was performed with admirable address, delicacy, and skill, and was entirely successful. This is the first time this wonderful hall has been used for a purpose like this; but I venture to say that it will not be the last.

THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

Mr. Webster and Mr. Boucicault are at open war. The latter gentleman has taken DRURY LANE, and opens it on the 23rd inst. with “The Colleen Bawn,” unless restrained by law, of which there is some talk.

A clever little apropos piece called “The Shilling Day,” full of absurd fun, is playing at the ADELPHI.

Mr. G. A. Sala gives his first reading from his own works on Monday at the Whittington Club.

THE LOUNGER AT THE EXHIBITION.

THE BELGIAN PICTURES.

IT is not alone, as ill-natured persons would have you believe, from the terrible nature of their subjects, nor even from the fidelity with which such subjects are portrayed, that M. Gallait's pictures are more attractive than any either in the British or foreign galleries. *Ad captivandum*, in these sensation days, they certainly are, but they will repay the minutest inspection, and will remain so long as canvas endures monuments of a man with a grand brain and a wonderfully facile hand. Of the nine pictures sent by M. Gallait, “The Last Honours Paid to Counts Egmont and Horn” is generally the most thronged by spectators. It is very ghastly. There in the bed lie the bodies of the martyred men; their heads placed on the pillow, it is true, but palpably not joining the bodies, and the hands gently laid on the sheet. The difference of expression in the faces of the bystanders is rendered with singular skill; the interested, the careless, the awestruck, the affectionate, all are there; and the painting of each figure and face, down to those of the man who is lighting the candles in the background, is executed with scrupulous care and fidelity. To my mind M. Gallait's most wonderful work is No. 1795, “The Last Moments of Count Egmont.” The gallant soldier has made his peace with God, and now turns to the window to look at the scaffold and the gathering crowd. His face, lit half by the daylight without and half by the lamp within, is calm without sternness and expressive of manly resignation; there is no uncertainty in his glance, no quivering in his lip; he is prepared and ready for death, though behind him the old Bishop, who has just given him his absolution, is so unmanned that the tears are rolling down his face. The execution of the face and pose of Egmont in the picture alone would have made M. Gallait's reputation. “Delilah” represents the Philistine woman, semi-nude, with an expression which it is difficult to translate. In the French catalogue the picture was called, if I mistake not, “Delilah mourning for the Death of Samson;” but one can scarcely tell whether her aspect is that of sorrow or whether she is pondering the best means of getting the strong man into her net. The figure in the background looping up the curtains of the tent is admirable. Well worthy of notice also is No. 1800, “The Prisoner,” where a young Italian, his face hard set in mingled emotion and vengeance, clasps his old father's hand through the prison bars.

M. Henri Leys has deservedly a very great reputation, though his pictures lack the essential elements of popularity—taking subjects easily understood. In the “Institution of the Golden Fleece,” the “Publication of the Edict of Charles V.,” and “Margaret of Austria Receiving the Oaths of the Archers of Antwerp,” M. Leys has grouped together a very large number of figures with care and skill; and painting in the very best style of so-called pre-Raphaelitism, he has invested each with a quaint individuality in itself remarkable. The figure-drawing and the grouping in all these pictures is excellent, but M. Leys' colour throughout is somewhat opaque and dull. M. Madon probably aspires to be the Meissonnier of Belgium, and he has certainly caught some of the great master's characteristics, though in delicacy of finish he is far behind. The best of his contributions are Nos. 1828 and 1829, “A Garde-Champêtre in his Humour,” very droll, and “The Parting Cup.” M. Pschaggey's sketches in the Belgian Ardennes are full of life and vigour. Another striking picture, excellently painted, is M. Shngencyer's “Christian Martyr,” who is represented calmly sleeping in his cell, while a slave opens the door leading into the crowded amphitheatre, and on the other side are seen the head and claws of the tiger which he is shortly to encounter. The calm repose of the Christian and the half-pitying, half-contemptuous look of the slave, are well rendered; but the great effect of the picture is the ray of light entering through the chink of the door and falling across the sleeper's limbs, so marvellously painted as to render it almost a matter of doubt whether it be an effect of art or really a wandering sunbeam. M. De Winter's “Going out to Fish by Moonlight” is also noticeable; and M. Verboeckhoven, who has been a frequent contributor to the French Gallery in Pall-mall, sends several of his best cattle-pieces.

In the German, Danish, Swedish, and Norwegian galleries there is

not very much to evoke extraordinary admiration. All art connoisseurs are acquainted with Herr Achenbach's seascapes, Herr Gerlach's landscapes, Herr Jabin's Swiss scenes, Herr Mücke's religious subjects, and Otto Speckter's quaint vagaries; but the northern artists, while most interestingly illustrating the quaint inner life of their respective countries, are not noticeable from an art point of view. No one, however, can fail to be struck with M. Piloty's grand picture of "Nero after the Burning of Rome." The city lies in ruins round him—the dead Christians are at his feet—but, preceded by his liegions and his slaves, the tyrant stalks along, his face lurid with rage and revenge, gathering his toga round him, and scowling as he passes by. The composition of the picture is very clever, and the painting, notably the head of a black boy, is sharp, true, and good.

THE SOCIAL SCIENCE CONGRESS.

LORD BROUGHAM'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

As mentioned in our last Number, the sixth annual meeting of the National Association for the Promotion of Social Science was opened on Thursday week. The president, Lord Brougham, delivered an inaugural address, from which we select a few of the most interesting passages. After paying a tribute to the memory of the late Prince Consort, the noble Lord went on to say—

PROGRESS OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES IN SOCIAL SCIENCE.

It is with the greatest satisfaction that we have found since our last congress a continuance of the progress, in which we then rejoiced, made by foreign countries in the various branches of social science, and by some countries in its only true and secure foundation—the improvement of constitutional government. It is a happy and a proud reflection for the times in which our lot is cast, that our age is undoubtedly one of progress.

RUSSIA—TURKEY—AUSTRIA.

The public opinion of Western Europe has penetrated into its Eastern portions. The Czar is strenuously occupied in the enfranchisement of the labouring classes; he may be expected to lighten the pressure on his Polish subjects, and to give them a separate Government and restored nationality, though upon absolute principles. Even the Sultan has resolved to visit our neighbours and ourselves, having adopted in his policy, both commercial and financial, suggestions the result of our experience. Our old ally, Austria, is disposed to improve her institutions; and possessing, more than other countries, the element of a working aristocracy, if she establishes a representative government on liberal principles, the best security will be obtained for the peace of the Continent. Her commercial development, too, is of immense importance to us; she having, except cotton, every one raw material that we want, and requiring all that we manufacture. The great defect of internal communication being supplied by the railways in progress, not only her trade with us will be incalculably extended, but she seems destined to be our high road to India; Vienna and Constantinople being the chief stations between London and Calcutta.

PRUSSIA.

The egregious error of Prussia in abandoning her liberal policy has served at once to cause the application of a speedy corrective and to afford a new and signal example of the inestimable advantages possessed by constitutional government in maintaining sound principles and preventing the excesses whether of Royal or of popular supremacy. The lesser States of Germany are, on some important matters, divided among themselves; but their disputes are conducted without endangering the general peace, because the questions at issue are in the hands of the Sovereigns, together with the chief members of the communities.

ITALY.

The kingdom of Italy appears at length to be secure of the only thing wanting to its consolidation—the capital, and the termination of the worst government in the world—the Papal temporal power; for it is inconceivable that the tyrant who has been dethroned and expelled from the South should any longer be allowed, with the help of that priestly power, to foment discussions which consist only in supporting hordes of robbers and murderers, whose inhuman outrages minister to his revenge by tormenting the people he can no longer oppress. But it will not be enough to withdraw from the service of anarchy, pillage, and assassination the support which Rome joins in affording them. The people have a right to emancipation from the worst of tyrannies, and to enjoy with their fellow-countrymen of Italy the unspeakable benefits of a rule which secures liberty without licentiousness, and protects them as well from the oppression of a Sovereign as from the more intolerable thralldom of the mob of clergy and laymen. Thus we may live to exult in contemplating a change that humanity has everything to rejoice and to glory in, nothing to be ashamed of. Anarchy and servitude at once removed; a crown changed from elective to hereditary; all foreign cabal banished; no price paid in blood; no treacheries, no intrigue, no system of slander more cruel than the sword; no insults on religion, morals, or manners; no spoil, no confiscation, no imprisonments, no exile.

FRANCE.

The French have been great gainers by the events since our last congress. The new licence so wisely given to Parliamentary proceedings has been attended with none of the evils or the perils which at first haunted timid, because unreflecting, persons. The debates have been conducted generally with calmness, and entire liberty of speech has been given to the very small minority opposing the Government. Though the great vice of the system continues with little abatement, the open exercise of Ministerial influence to control the elections, and the result of the debates on contested matters has been chiefly in favour of the Government, in one or two remarkable instances it has received a check, and in others its conduct has been awayed by the desire to avoid attacks which were sure to reach the country as soon as made in either Chamber. This action of public opinion upon the course of the Government is, indeed, accidental rather than regular, and is slight compared with what it would be if elections were free and the press uncontrolled, and, above all, if the administration of justice in the case of political offences were entirely pure. Corruption there is none among the Judges, but then promotion depends upon their giving satisfaction to the Government, and such offences are subject to police jurisdiction as well as that of superior functionaries. It is to be hoped, and indeed it is fairly to be expected, that the liberal measures already adopted will be followed by others, so as to give the public voice the same regular and powerful influence in France which it has in England.

AMERICA—THE WAR.

But the present unhappy state of affairs in the New World is calculated to withdraw our attention from all other countries and fix it upon the fortunes of our kinsmen and the lessons which their institutions or their errors are fitted to teach. A civil war has for twelve months raged among them, far more dreadful than that the prospect of which, on the banks of the Rubicon, struck horror through its author's limbs, made his hair stand on end, and stayed his steps; a war waged, not by a few thousand soldiers on either side, but by the whole people, frantic with mutual hatred, filled with a thirst of vengeance, only to be slaked by each other's slaughter. The prevalence of epidemic slander and falsehood in all their forms makes it impossible to trust the accounts which reach us. But enough is certainly known to prove that the conflict, besides the miseries its cruelties inflict, must last long enough to impoverish the country in all its resources, and, whatever be its results, to leave the people filled with bitter feelings which deprive peace of all the blessings that goodwill can bestow. The afflictive scene, distant though it be, has been regarded with as lively an interest as if it lay in our immediate neighbourhood, with every disposition to put the most favourable construction upon the conduct of all parties, and with the fixed resolution to take no part in the deplorable contest. The Government has not only maintained the most strict neutrality, but withheld all expression of opinion upon the matters in dispute, all intimation of a wish as to the result; and in preserving this passive attitude, enjoined alike by wisdom and justice, it has also been the faithful representative of the nation. The earnest and universal desire of the people is to see an end of this most miserable war, and the only apprehension of rational and reflecting men is lest it should leave such a recollection of its dismal horrors as may hereafter prevent improvement where further separation might be expedient, as the remembrance of the Reign of Terror in France has for nearly seventy years made the people submit to everything rather than risk the recurrence of that calamitous time.

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND THE SLAVE TRADE.

The Northern Government, to its infinite honour, has at length agreed to the mutual right of search—in other words, to abolish all that remains of the slave trade. It has long been known that the greater part of that infernal traffic is carried on in American ships sailing under false colours, none of their own cruisers interfering effectually. Both the English and French cruisers can now visit each suspected vessel, and the traffic is at an end. I regard this as the second real blow struck at the slave trade. The first was the Act which I had the happiness of passing through Parliament, just half a century ago, for punishing it as a great crime instead of treating it as merely contraband—a law soon after adopted by America, but never till of late really executed. Let us hope that our Government may be encouraged by this important success to use with Spain a language no longer capable of being misunderstood, and imperiously to demand the execution of the contract for which she received so large a sum of money, and which she has ever since most scandalously broken in all manner of ways, making the slave trade a regular means of enriching her colonial governors sent to recruit their ruined fortunes by bribes from felons, the result being the importation into Cuba of 40,000 negroes yearly.

THE EFFECT OF THE AMERICAN WAR ON THIS COUNTRY—

PATIENCE OF THE PEOPLE.

The American civil war has severely affected this country (as well as France), producing great distress in all those districts where the cotton manufacture forms the staple trade. The subject is too painful to dwell

upon, were we not relieved by observing the truly admirable behaviour of those who suffer the most. The distress has brought into view the happy advance of our artisan population in the branches of knowledge most essential to their well-being. The hardships which they are enduring have not disturbed their minds or shaken their faith in principles which they had upon examination and reflection adopted in prosperous times. They know that the want of the raw material which sets their industry in motion would not justify England in using her power to break the laws of nations for the purpose of obtaining it; and they assent to the wise and just forbearance of our Government without a murmur. Their patience under sufferings beyond all former experience is truly affecting. They have made a noble sacrifice to maintain their position as self-supporting members of the community. How unlike this to the blind fury of their predecessors, who in their ignorance always rushed to the conclusion that every calamity under which they suffered was brought on them by the rapacity, or the cruel, callous indifference of their superiors in social position!

PROGRESS OF THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT.

Not satisfied with most patient endurance, the people have sought how their resources might be most husbanded by co-operative associations, of which the number has been greatly increased since I described their proceedings at the congress before the last. Enjoying the great advantage of Mr. William Cooper's assistance (secretary of the Parent Society at Rochdale), I am enabled to state that there are now above 500 of those admirable institutions in the island; and their importance may be estimated by this, that 273 of them have 69,000 members, a capital of two millions and a half, and their sales for the last quarter were upwards of £500,000. Co-operation is becoming a power in the State, and strenuous endeavours are being made to mould the laws regulating those institutions into the best form for securing their permanence and adaptation to their objects.

CRIME AND LAW REFORM.—EDUCATION.—THE EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN.

The treatment of convict prisoners was next passed in review, and in treating of it the noble Lord placed the Irish convict system far above all others which had been subjected to the test of experience. He then touched on the new Lunacy Bill, the evidence clauses of which he strongly condemned; and in alluding to the law of courts-martial, in illustration of which he cited the case of Captain Robertson, recommended that the presiding officer should have the power of calling in professional assistance. In connection with this subject, he observed that the character of the officers and the discipline of the Army were not more essential to the good service and safety of the State than the reputation of the legal profession was to the administration of justice. "When it is considered," he remarked, "that from the Bar all the Judges are taken, enough is said to show how important is everything that relates to the discipline of the profession. When the great powers which the Benchers of the Inns of Court can indirectly exercise, without control of the judicial authorities, are considered, it should seem that a more uniform practice should prevail in those bodies. In one inn (one of the Temples) a practice prevails of pursuing an investigation respecting the conduct of its members, and those who had not been present at all the proceedings joining in the opinion pronounced. It is an obvious suggestion from a late case that in any inquiry respecting the personal—that is, the professional—conduct of a member, all should be present throughout the proceedings whose opinion is to decide upon the result." The measures for facilitating the transfer of real estate, the revised code, and the efforts which are being made (and which called forth a warm eulogy from the noble Lord) for promoting the industrial employment of women, were then referred to at some length; after which the noble Lord concluded thus:—

CONTINENTAL VISITORS AT THE CONGRESS.

"This congress is happily attended by a far greater body of friends from the Continent than any former meeting, in consequence of the affiliated associations attending by their representatives. But, independently of this circumstance, we have the presence of eminent persons from Germany, France, and Northern Italy: the countrymen of the illustrious Euler, D'Alembert, La Place, and, the greatest of all, La Grange, have come to visit the land of Newton, by universal assent the first of philosophers of all ages and all countries; and they have seen with incredulous astonishment that the nation, so justly proud of having given birth to the greatest of men, has raised no monument to his memory, satisfied that, as Pericles called the whole earth the monument of illustrious men, so the whole universe is Newton's. But, if they have thought that for our disgrace we might well feel ashamed, so do they also mark that of our social state we may well feel proud. They see with admiration, perhaps with envy, a people in possession of rights, secure against risks both from above and below—rights which no regal ambition can encroach upon, no popular delusion betray; an aristocracy, the barrier against domination of one master and the more insupportable tyranny of the mob—a people informed by a press, subject to no control but that of the law and answerable only for offences which the law has declared and defined—a people sharing moderately and safely in the management of their own concerns, but protected from that universal servitude which, under the disguise of liberty, conceals the instrument of absolute dominion—a people blessed with the pure administration of justice, because distributed by Judges who can neither be removed nor promoted according as their judgments satisfy or displease the possessors of power. Let us hope that our foreign friends will carry back with them such an impression, not only of the unspeakable benefits derived from our Constitution and the practice under it, but a conviction, which all the discussions in the different departments will give them, of its perfectly safe working in all respects, and the ease with which the most valuable portions of it may be adopted by other nations. This is more than any former congress international, and the great advantage is manifest of members from different countries communicating freely their views and opinions, the result of their various experience; and it is to be hoped that the discussions in our several departments will afford the opportunity. But, even without the variety of institutions, all have a common interest in our inquiries, and in the deliberations to which they lead. We are engaged in the high and holy work of seeking out social wants, to expose and correct them; social abuses, to put them down; social evils, to supply them; social evil, to extirpate it—in looking for the sufferings of humanity with the purpose of obviating or mitigating them. As there is nothing more delightful than affording relief to the distress of individuals, but few indeed have the means of enjoying this pleasure—so it is in the power of all, and it is their duty, to further the great measures which may ward off distress or disarm it of its pain; and who-ever helps this good work may taste the gratification of doing good upon a far larger scale, and be thankful to Divine Providence for having vouchsafed a triumph over evil, which it is more blessed to prevent than to cure."

The address of the noble and learned Lord, who remained seated during the greater portion of its delivery, occupied nearly an hour and a half, and frequently elicited the heartiest applause, particularly the passages condemning the Papal temporal power and in favour of Italian unity.

THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONGRESS.

The several departments were opened on Friday morning, by addresses from their respective presidents, in the courts assigned to them at Guildhall. The department of Social Economy was opened with an address from Mr. M. Milne, M.P., the president. Papers were afterwards read by Mr. J. Valpy, "On the Importance of Local Statistics for the Promotion of Social Science;" by W. H. Roberts, F.R.S., "On the Instruction and Training of the Working Classes in those Domestic Habits which conduce to their Physical and Moral Well-being;" and on other kindred topics.

In the department of Education the address was delivered by the Very Rev. the Dean of St. Paul's (Dr. Milman). The very rev. president, in drawing attention to the principles which should guide a system of national education, and in inviting attention to the papers announced upon the subject, pointed out as matters for serious consideration, in connection with the system of State aid at present in operation, whether the tendency might not be to sacrifice the useful instruction of the many to the brilliant efficiency of a few, and whether the hours of attendance both on the ordinary and Sunday instruction might not be too long for the health and sustained attention of the children. He urged the absolute necessity of religious teaching; but, while strongly advocating that the Bible should be kept in the schools, he desired that it should be so kept in its native dignity, and not used as a spelling-book or grammar. To teach religious words by rote was not to make children religious.

Lord Brougham having expressed his hearty appreciation of the address, the Rev. Dr. Melville then proceeded to read a paper upon "The Revised Code; its Causes and Consequences."

The section under the title "Prevention, Punishment, and Reformation," was opened by a brief address by Mr. Thomas Chambers, Q.C., Common Serjeant; after which Sir John Jebb read a paper upon "Prison Discipline in England."

In the department of Trade and International Law, after an opening address from the president (Dr. Travers Twiss), a discussion took place upon the report of a committee upon the subject of a general average, and a draught bill was submitted for consideration.

The department devoted to the subject of Public Health was opened by an address by Mr. W. Fairbairn, F.R.S., as president; after which a paper was read by Mr. B. Scott upon "Ancient Water-Conduits and Modern Drinking-Fountains of London."

At the subsequent sittings of the various sections papers on a multiplicity of subjects have been read, but of which it is impossible for us to give any details. The most valuable of these papers will, of course, be published in the "Transactions" of the association.

The great attraction at the congress on Wednesday was the Social Economy Section, which was crowded with ladies to hear papers read by ladies on the subject of female employment. The training of women for the learned professions, their employment as compositors, as law-writers, as nurses, &c., were severally discussed, and papers read on those subjects by the ladies who had been most instrumental in forwarding them, and who felt themselves able for the most part to report the progress of their schemes.

A soirée was held at the Houses of Parliament on Saturday evening, at which about 6000 ladies and gentlemen were present, including all the most distinguished personages, English and foreign, now in London. The meeting was a most interesting and agreeable one.

The Congress de Bienfaisance has also been holding meetings at Burlington House, under the presidency of Lord Shaftesbury, at which papers—principally by foreigners—have been read on various topics connected with the objects of the congress—namely, the promotion of projects of beneficence and the amelioration of human suffering.

Literature.

Prince Albert's Golden Precepts. Selected from his Addresses, &c. Sampson Low and Co.

Prince Albert was always sensible, and, though he evidently believed with a most Continental faith in that notion of a "paternal government" which the largest number of thinking men reject, his addresses were always welcome on account of their moderation and simplicity. Externally—as to binding, paper, and print—this little square volume is a pattern-book, being in really charming taste. Of its contents the following is the best passage:

FREEDOM OF HUMAN WILL.

We hear it said, the prosecution of statistical inquiry leads necessarily to Pantheism and the destruction of true religion, as it deprives, in man's estimation, the Almighty of His power of free self-determination, making His world a mere machine, working according to a general prearranged scheme, the parts of which are capable of mathematical measurement, and the scheme itself of numerical expression; that it leads to fatalism, and therefore deprives man of his dignity, of his virtue and morality, as it would prove him to be a mere wheel in this machine, incapable of exercising a free choice of action, but predestined to fulfil a given task and to run a prescribed course, whether for good or for evil.

These are grave accusations, and would be terrible indeed if they were true. But are they true? Is the power of God destroyed or diminished by the discovery of the fact that the earth requires 365 revolutions upon its own axis to every revolution round the sun, giving us so many days to our year, and that the moon changes thirteen times during that period; that the tide changes every six hours; that water boils at a temperature of 212 degrees Fahrenheit; that the nightingale sings only in April and May; that all birds lay eggs; that 105 boys are born to every 100 girls? Or is man a less free agent because it has been ascertained that a generation lasts about forty years; that there are annually put in at the Post Office the same number of letters on which the writers had forgotten to place any address; that the number of crimes committed under the same local, national, and social conditions is constant; that the full-grown man ceases to find amusement in the sports of the child?

SMITH AND ELDER'S STANDARD AUTHORS.

The new volume just issued of Messrs. Smith and Elder's Series of Shilling Fictions do no discredit to the former supply. With large type and good paper, these short novels are admirably adapted for railway-reading. The prudent traveller will supply himself with literature of just the length to satisfy the demands of the journey. It would surely be very unpleasant to reach the final station collecting luggage and ticket, despairing after porter, stared at by the majesty of the law vindicated in the person of a purple policeman, and a prey to the devastating cabman, whilst all the time in a state of deep interest as to "what became" of Jimmie, whether the second will was found, and so forth. But none of these works will be found too long for any journey where the occupation of reading may be necessary. "Florence Templar," by Mrs. Vidal, is a good lesson to the proud mammas of beauties. Lady Templar teases one daughter to death, and, whilst she is angling for a coronet for Florence, that young lady's beauty is destroyed for ever by small-pox. It is not very nice, truly; but, then, morals never are nice, although, after all, that moral cannot be very great which could have been annihilated by a timely application of vaccine. But Mrs. Vidal is remorseless. All her characters, with one or two exceptions, die out, and leave the narrator to the bliss of marriage with a first cousin. "Hawkeview," by Holme Lee, has some good hard writing. All the principal characters are well drawn, it is to be hoped not from life, for some of them are of a sufficiently turbulent tint to provoke the meekest or the most indifferent saint in the calendar. The conclusion, the Crimean letters, and the hero's return, are singularly fresh and vigorous, and a good example of the mingled strength and grace of Holme Lee. Miss Georgiana M. Craik, in "Lost and Won," has possibly exhausted her stock of sentimentality. But those who object to sentiment must at least admire the writer for her recognition of the faithfulness of man, a condition of love not too often accorded. Here, again, Hildred, the heroine, would be a very unpleasant thunderstorm to have about a house; and the faithful lover, Guy, unpleasant, but in a different way. "Highland Lassies, or the Rona Pass," by Erick Mackenzie, is valuable as a sketch of Highland life, the manners and customs of which appear to be somewhat improved since Dr. Johnson's days. The girls are delicious, and it seems shameful of the young, travelling Englishman to entrap their unsophisticated affections only to leave them to despair. But the reader must be prepared for plenty of Gaelic and commoner Scotch—the latter intolerable, the former constantly curious, though having a tendency to interfere with the march of the story. But the very names in the north are poetic, and have quite a charm when "Sandy" and similar terrors might have been expected. Much of "Cousin Stella, or Conflicts," by the author of "Who Breaks Pays," is of a well-worn stamp: a peculiar half-Spanish girl misunderstood in English society. But when the scene changes to Jamaica, the effect is novel and picturesque. It is to be regretted that the author is not more conclusive on the subject of slavery. All that can be gathered is, that there are kind as well as cruel masters, that there are good as well as bad blacks, that the blacks prefer kindness to cruelty, that they are lazy, that they would take terrible vengeance if they once rose, and other recondite deductions from personal experience. But the picture of planters' life reads like truth, which is more than can be said of some other pretentious political and Christian slave-novels.

It is perhaps unnecessary to add that all these works are new editions, and that, consequently, they have already enjoyed a fair share of public approbation. In their new form they will please thousands, whilst formerly the hundreds alone were favoured.

"THE FETE AT THE CABARET."

M. MARCHEL achieves the rare success of painting pictures which, while they are thoroughly unexaggerated and true to Nature, are completely interesting both on account of the story they convey and their firm and expressive treatment. In this picture of the Protestant fete-day in the Bas Rhin, every detail is lifelike, every figure in the scene may be one of the ordinary guests on any such occasion as that represented; and yet the artist has introduced a vivid story enough.

Both the execrable Alva and his almost worthy successor, Don John of Austria, were wont to speak of the Netherland Protestants as "these wine skins," whether from the greater sobriety of the Spaniards or from the natural joviality of the people, it would be difficult to say. It is certain, however, that "the wine skins" were not to be destroyed by all the ferocious persecutions of the man who made the great mistake of looking at them with affected contempt. The party of modern revellers in our picture would seem to have celebrated their fête with moderate potatoes, but they are not all so occupied; for there in the very foreground of the group is the more deeply-interesting episode of love and coquetry displayed in the pretended interest with which the too-fascinating peasant girl listens to the compliments of her casual admirer, while the faithful but, to judge from his stern face, too-exacting lover sits with moody brow, his full glass untouched, his companion unnoticed. In the expressions of the faces, which themselves are sufficient to indicate the whole drama represented, lies the power of M. Marchel's pictures; and it is by this great art that they will retain a popularity which all true representations of life inevitably receive.



INTERIOR OF A WINE-SHOP ON A FETE-DAY IN THE CANTON OF BOUXVILLA, UPPER RHINE.—(FROM A PICTURE BY MARCHAL.)



TERMINATION OF THE VAL DES ORMONDS, SWITZERLAND.

VAL DES ORMONDS, SWITZERLAND.

THE entrance to the Val des Ormonds lies to the left of Aigle, a small town well known on the road between the eastern end of the Lake of Geneva and Martigny. The beauty and salubrity of this valley have long been familiar to the inhabitants of Geneva and Lausanne; but it is only within the last few summers that the English and American tourists have been attracted from the more frequented routes to the comparatively retired and unknown grandeur of the pass. Leaving Aigle on the right and passing by the vineyards remarkable for the production of the Vin d'Yvorne, a white wine of superior quality, the course of the torrent of the Grandes Eaux is followed for some distance. The stranger's attention is drawn to the quantity of cut wood borne along upon the swift current and forced onward among the large boulders, each log being exactly of the same length. This wood, cut and hurled down the steep mountain side on which it grew into the stream, is thus drifted down to the mouth of the Rhone, where it opens into the Lake of Geneva; it is there drawn on shore, sorted, stacked, and finally carried as firewood to Geneva and other towns on the shores of the lake. Crossing the torrent, the tourist will find himself on the road called the Cordon Bleu. As he begins to ascend he will turn to admire the picturesque town and castle of Aigle beneath, and all the beauties of the winding valley of the Rhone, surmounted by the towering summit of the Dent du Midi. This scene is soon shut out by an angle of the zigzag road winding up the side of the mountain. It was the intention of the Swiss Government to connect the Simplon with the Simmenthal by a road through the Val des Ormonds. This seemingly impracticable project has been most successfully carried out as far as Sepey, to the height of 3000 feet, one of the most remarkable constructions in Europe for the beauty and boldness of its execution. After two hours' ascent Sepey is reached, where the Val des Ormonds presents many remarkable sites. Above the little cluster of chalets called Caomballaz, Mont Blanc, with its domed summit contrasting with the pyramidal peak of the Dent du Midi, forms a horizon of great beauty. Exquisitely charming, too, is the Lac Lézon, with its pale green icy water reflecting the grey crags, and its flowering banks of daphne and yellow ranunculus.

But the chief attraction of the Val des Ormonds is its rocky and abrupt termination, represented in the accompanying Engraving. It is a wonderful horseshoe precipice of gigantic height, much resembling the Cirque Gavarni in the Pyrenees. Above it rise the glaciers and rocks of the Diablerets, from which the dissolving snows descend down the face of the bare rock in numerous lines of silver spray, and afterwards wind in tortuous streams among the meadows and chalets which lie in the plain beneath. The peaks which surmount the broad masses of snow and the icy steps of the glacier are not inappropriately named Diablerets. On the other side of the mountain, at the Col de Chevillon, they are regarded with much awe and apprehension by the peasants. *Eboulements* of a most tremendous kind have happened within the memory of the present generation. The sides of the mountain being composed of strongly-inclined strata of limestone, and subjected to the constant infiltration of the glaciers, large masses detach themselves, and the violence and extent of their fall are visible in the shattered blocks of rock hurled down in the most wild and overwhelming ruin. The geologist and the painter may find in this neighbourhood subjects for study hardly to be surpassed in any other part of Switzerland. The magnificence of this spot has recently attracted so many tourists that a comfortable hotel has been established at the Plain des Isles. The surrounding scenery is most striking, combining all those details of snow, rock, and forest which give to the Alpine landscape its peculiar beauty and sublimity.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

LONDON is the only capital in the world which has two Italian operatic companies; and, nevertheless, there are several Italian operas just now which are by no means thoroughly well played in London. Each of the rival establishments has a great number of excellent singers—at least twice as many, counting all their members, as could be found at Paris and St. Petersburg combined; and the Royal Italian Opera has a better orchestra than either of the two great Italian theatres of the Continent. "Guillaume Tell," which is too large an opera for the little Italian theatre of Paris and too exciting a one for the now almost revolutionary audiences of St. Petersburg, is certainly heard to perfection at Covent Garden. So, too, is "Le Prophète." But what are we to say of "Les Huguenots," with the part of Valentine represented by Mlle. Fricki? or of that of "Lucia di Lammermoor" with such an Edgardo as Herr Wachtel? If Mr. Gye had a better Valentine than Mlle. Fricki (we mean a better singer; as an actress Mlle. Fricki leaves little to be desired), the performance of "Les Huguenots" at the Royal Italian Opera would be in all respects admirable. Some of our contemporaries, however, assure us that the new prima donna will improve. We hope she will, and that it will be during our time, if she is to remain at Covent Garden.

As to Herr Wachtel, the new tenor, he also may improve—at least he has not yet reached perfection, but, on the contrary, is very much further therefrom than the painstaking and interesting Mlle. Fricki, whom, if her singing and our conscience permitted it, we should really be delighted to laud to the skies. Herr Wachtel made his debut in London last Saturday, and sang the music of Edgardo with very moderate success. He has a powerful voice, and is particularly strong in the upper notes, which (after the manner of Signor Mongini) he gives out with great emphasis on all possible occasions. With more art, and more natural or acquired taste, he might be a fine singer; but, as it is, he is chiefly remarkable for his shortcomings, and is not likely to obtain much success at a theatre where the audiences are in the habit of listening to such tenors as Mario and Tamberlik. Herr Wachtel is a native of Hamburg, and is said (what we can easily believe) not to have been educated originally for the musical profession. We are told that he appeared at the Hamburg Opera House after a very slight artistic training, that he at once achieved immense success, and that he is exceedingly popular in his native town—which, by-the-way, is not at all unaccustomed to the performances of first-rate vocalists. However, Herr Wachtel might sing worse than he does—worse, we are sure, than he has any intention of doing—and "Lucia di Lammermoor" would still draw crowds to the Royal Italian Opera as long as the part of the heroine was played by Mlle. Patti.

"Rigoletto" is announced at the Royal Italian Opera for some day next week, and we were in hopes that Mlle. Patti would have appeared as Gilda; but we see that Mlle. Marie Battujis is to make her debut in that part. Mr. Gye is certainly determined to have as large a number of sopranos as he already has of tenors and baritones at his theatre. It is quite possible for a manager to engage too few, and we are afraid that it is also possible for him to engage too many, singers. In the troublesome plenitude of his riches he may feel inclined, may even find himself forced, to offer occasionally his second best to the public, when with a more limited supply of excellence the best, in an absolute sense, would have been set before them. However, some of the casts at the Royal Italian Opera are very nearly perfect; and to those of this class which we have already instanced we may add that of "Don Giovanni," in which the principal characters are assigned to Faure, Tamberlik, Formes, Patti, Penco, &c.

At Her Majesty's Theatre we have a Donna Anna and a Valentine the equal of whom can be heard nowhere else; but the company is weak in the article of tenors. It has Gingini, certainly, who, in some respects, when he is in good voice (which he has not been lately), sings better than any tenor of the day. No one can get very enthusiastic about Signor Bettini, and most persons, we should think, would rather not hear Signor Armandi at all. The manager is rich in baritones; for he has simply the two best on the stage—Mr. Santley and Signor Gassier. Signor Gassier in buffo parts is without a rival; and, after seeing him as Assur in "Semiramide," we are inclined to think that he is equally good in serious characters.

Mr. Santley is certainly not a great actor, but he has a very beautiful voice, and his execution is faultless.

But we had no intention of instituting a comparison in detail between the rival troops of the Royal Italian Opera and Her Majesty's Theatre. The most remarkable thing about them, and that to which we wished to call attention, is that, with eight or nine performances a week, which, between them, they are now announcing, they give very few performances indeed which are marked by anything like completeness of execution. At the one theatre we cannot one night hear Trebelli without Bettini, nor, on another, Titens without Armandi; at the other, we are obliged to put up with the shouting of Wachtel when we want to listen only to the warbling of Patti, or to tolerate Fricki for the sake of hearing Mario. Perhaps the operas which are the best performed just now at Her Majesty's Theatre are the magnificent, ever-welcome "Semiramide," and the tawdry, too-familiar "Trovatore." The cast of the "Huguenots," also, is good, but the orchestral resources of the theatre are scarcely equal to the performance of such a work. The players are numerous enough, but their execution is often too loud and never sufficiently delicate. The last time we heard the "Huguenots" at Her Majesty's nearly all the principal singers were unwell. Mlle. Trebelli was too ill to appear in the part of the page, and was replaced by Mlle. Lemaire. An apology was made for Mlle. Michal, who, nevertheless, went through the music of the Queen. No apology was made for Signor Gingini, but he proved by his manner of singing that he was seriously indisposed.

An excellent concert, largely attended, was given last Monday at Exeter Hall, when the International Ode composed by Professor Sterndale Bennett for the opening of the Exhibition, and the marches written by Meyerbeer and Auber for the same auspicious occasion were performed. The orchestra was conducted by Mr. Benedict. The principal singers were Mr. Sims Reeves, Mlle. Lemmens-Sherrington, &c.; and M. Ascher was the pianist.

A project of establishing a permanent English Opera in opposition to, or, rather, irrespective of, the one that has now existed for a good many years (under the direction of Miss Louisa Pyne and Mr. Harrison, and under the musical conductorship of Mr. Alfred Mellon), has long been talked of. We hear that it is at present about to be realised. A company has been formed and a sufficient amount of capital subscribed to justify the directors in commencing their important undertaking next autumn. The new English Opera will, in all probability, open early in August, so that it will have the benefit for nearly two months of such attendance as it is likely to get from late visitors to the International Exhibition. It is said that the musical conductor will be Mr. Henry Leslie, and among the singers engaged Mr. Sims Reeves is named.

FINE ARTS.

SPECIAL EXHIBITION OF WORKS OF ART AT SOUTH KENSINGTON.

THIS collection of art-treasures comes most appropriately as a supplement to the vast exposition of modern art and manufacture at the International Exhibition. It was, indeed, expressly designed for this purpose, and to afford the means of comparing the art-work of past times with that of to-day. On which side the greatest excellence lies we will not pronounce, out of regard for the *amour propre* of the enterprising and skilful artist-workmen who have done their utmost to show what are the capabilities of modern art; but it may safely be said that no one, whether artist or simply virtuoso, can visit this magnificent display of the art and craft of bygone ages without admitting the wonderful feeling for beauty, and the taste, as well as the manipulative skill, that distinguish the works of the old masters in ornamental art as much as in painting and sculpture.

Two of the new courts built for the museum have been filled with a collection of works of art of almost every kind, selected by competent persons from the collections of private individuals, who have kindly lent them, after the plan so successfully adopted in the Manchester Art-Treasures Exhibition. Her Majesty the Queen, with her accustomed graciousness and interest in everything conducing to the education and benefit of the country, has permitted an important selection from the superb gold plate of Windsor and the magnificent examples of Sevres china at Buckingham Palace, besides splendid arms, the Cellini shield, and the unrivalled collection of cameos and intagli. The Universities of Oxford and Cambridge have contributed their most interesting cups, and the celebrated crossiers of William of Wykeham (a relic of the fourteenth century) and Bishop Fox. The Royal Irish Academy and St. Columba College contribute a most remarkable collection of ancient Celtic objects, amongst which are two of the rare pastoral staffs in bronze enamel, with the "Tara" brooch and several gold torques. The Lismore crossier, another relic of the ancient Irish Church, is sent by the Duke of Devonshire, and, with the Shrine of St. Monahan, makes this part of the exhibition complete and interesting beyond anything before seen at one time. The City companies lend their old plate, and the Goldsmiths' Company especially send some of the choicest specimens of their ancient craft. The plate contributed by the nobility and various collectors who have made a study of this particular branch of art-work forms also a remarkable feature in the exhibition. Some of it is not particularly striking, except for size; but there are several pieces unique as examples of the goldsmith's art—especially the ewer and salver of Baron James Rothschild, those of the Duke of Rutland, and a wonderful salver, possibly the work of Cellini, belonging to Captain Leyland, an example most interesting as being new to this country. The silver-gilt firedogs lent by the Duke of Manchester, and many unique pieces from the Duke of Hamilton, once belonging to the famous stores of Mr. Beckford, are also important objects which have rarely been exhibited. Indeed, there are invaluable examples from the Duke of Hamilton's collection in ancient enamelled glass of the rarest Venetian styles, with some lent by the Duc d'Aumale, Baron Lionel Rothschild, and Mr. T. T. Baring. These form a series of what are known as the Arabic lamps and bottles, hitherto never seen together, or perhaps known to exist in the country. The antique glass lent by Mr. Webb is a similar unequalled collection of rarities of the most beautiful kind. The enamels form also a series hitherto never approached in general completeness, although at present these are not properly arranged; nor, indeed, can it be said that the exhibition is as yet at all in order as it is intended to be when the descriptions are appended to the objects. The Sevres china is another great feature in the exhibition: all the splendid varieties of bleu de roi, gros bleu, turquoise, rose du Barri, green, white, and one of the rare mandarin yellow are to be seen in a perfection not equalled even by the fine display of Sevres at Manchester.

Some statuettes in Sevres biscuit are also very charming objects in this part of the collection, lent by Lord Willoughby D'Eresby. Chelsea china is represented most worthily by two of the finest pieces known—the vase belonging to the Foundling, and another apparently an exact repetition, besides examples of rare excellence, nearly equalling the best work of the time, from the foreign factories, lent by Lord Cadogan, Mr. Addington, Mr. Franks, and other contributors. Mr. Catt's set of three vases of old Worcester are good examples of the fine porcelain of that famous English fabrique. The most attractive display in china is in the beautiful pieces painted by Lingelbach, lent by the Queen; the rose du Barri, belonging to Lord D'Eresby, and Mr. Charles Mills, rivals in beauty rare pieces from the collections of the Duke of Buccleuch, Lady Dorothy Neville, Mr. R. Napier, Mr. Addington, the Duke of Cambridge, and Mr. M. T. Smith. Dresden china is not at present shown; whether it is intended to pass over this prolific sort of china we are not informed. The collection of majolica is as fine in quality as anything yet brought together. There is the unique vase belonging to Mr. Mark Phillips; a remarkable plateau of fine quality belonging to Mr. Addington; a superb cistern, and many rare pieces of the Gubbio lustre ware, and the early Hispano-Moorish ware. Palissy ware is as well illustrated as possible with several of the curious snake and fish dishes, and some charming daisy-plates, lent by Mr. Addington. Then there is the case of that most rare and curious work known as the Henri Deux ware, because

that Monarch was the patron of the unknown artist who invented the style, and whom no one since has been able to imitate. Of this most recherché and artistic kind of plastic earthenware only fifty-three examples are known to exist, of which twenty-nine are in France, twenty-three in England (all of which are in the exhibition), and the remaining one in Russia. To those who are not acquainted with the work we may say that its peculiarity consists in being covered on the plain surfaces by the most delicate incised work, like inlay of different coloured woods or metals, while the general forms are admirably modelled and ornamented with masks and figures in grotesque, frequently touched in parts with transparent coloured glaze. The crowning piece in this collection is the celebrated ewer of Mr. Magniac, unique for beauty of form and exquisite inlay work. A pair of candlesticks, belonging to Sir A. Rothschild, are, perhaps, the next in importance; and a fine tazza, on brackets with Satyr heads, ornamented with pale brown inlay, from the Duke of Hamilton's collection. Three admirable examples are shown without the name of the owner, who chooses to be incog., and therefore we will not tell the way to one of the most remarkable stores of art-treasures in this country which adds to the glory of Norfolk, as famous for its art as for its game. It will be noticed that of these the candlestick is nearly the same as the Rothschild pair, and the ewer corresponds to one in the Portales collection. The saltcellar, in the form of an altar, belonging to Mr. Addington, and that from Mr. G. Field's collection, are exceedingly good examples, the latter being especially interesting from the painting of a salamander in the bowl, a device assumed by Francis I., and in this point it is unique. This and several others will be remembered as having been in the Art-Treasures Exhibition at Manchester. The famous Diane de Poitiers, mistress of Henri II., being the great patroness of art of her time, her device of the D interlaced, with figures of Diana and emblems of the chase, are found on many pieces of this ware. In allusion to this the case contains a beautiful clock, which was made for her, and which bears with her cipher that of the King—II, with crown above, in blue enamel champlevé. This very beautiful object belongs to the Earl of Home. In connection with this relic may be named Queen Elizabeth's prayer-book, a miniature volume encased in richly-chased gold covers, enamelled and chased by George Heriot, the printing by Barker, and the prayers written by Lady Elizabeth Tyrwhit. This little volume was evidently worn as a pendant to the girdle. It is lent by Mr. Geo. Field, to whom it now belongs.

The cases of cameos in onyx and shell from the Royal collection are full of the most exquisite examples of the glyptic art. Many are of the rarest antique work, and some exquisite works of the Cinque Cento period. Two are especially noticeable—a portrait of Queen Elizabeth, evidently a work of the time, and one of Henry VIII. with his son Edward, both excellent in work, but that of the Queen is superlatively fine. The collection of objects carved in rock crystal and in pietra dura of various kinds is unequalled in beauty by anything in former exhibitions. A small ewer cut out of an immense sardonyx, and most exquisitely mounted in enamel metal-work of flowers, with a grotesque bird-handle, belonging to Mr. H. T. Hope, is the gem of the exhibition in this speciality. A ewer and stand in crystal richly enamelled, which belongs to Mr. A. Barker, is also an exquisite work of the kind. There is also in the large case filled entirely with Baron Lionel Rothschild's contribution an antique glass cup, of late Roman work, the outside of which is wonderfully carved with figures in high relief. The glass is opaline, and, viewed with transmitted light, is seen of the most beautiful ruby colour. This priceless object is a study for our modern artists in glass-cutting. Another remarkable piece in this contribution is the large bottle and basin in ancient Venetian glass, of Oriental style, the most superb example in existence. As a unique specimen, also, should be mentioned the stirrups belonging to Mr. Forman. They are of the shovel-shape form, covered with fine inlay in gold and silver, with panels of niello and borders of exquisite cloisonné and translucent enamel. These are probably the work of a Venetian artist taught by the Moors. They are of great value in every respect, for we believe they cost the present owner no less than £500.

The lovers of those exquisite works of bijouterie of the last century in bonbon-boxes, snuff-boxes, and small jewel-caskets, will have a rare treat in the brilliant display of those choice articles of luxury exhibited by the Duke of Cambridge, Mr. Addington, Lady Dorothy Neville, the Duke of Hamilton, and especially in the very select contribution of Mr. C. Goding. The old jewellery in the neighbouring case will be an equally attractive feature in the exhibition. The natural pearls mounted in grotesque enamel figures, the celebrated Essex pendant of Lord de Vaux, another lent by the Earl of Stamford and Warrington, and many other curiously beautiful objects, are to be found in this part of the exhibition.

The collection of miniatures, when properly arranged with the names, will certainly be the most interesting ever seen. Every collector of importance has been put under contribution, and they all have yielded up their treasures most liberally. As veritable portraits nothing can surpass them in interest, as many have never been out of the possession of the families whose distinguished members they represent.

The collection of carvings in ivory is, perhaps, less comprehensive than the others, as it contains no examples of the later work of the Flemish and French carvers. In examples of earlier date there are, however, several of great excellence in the caskets and diptychs lent by Mr. J. Fuller Russell, Mr. Magniac, Lord Londesborough, and other contributors. The tenure-horns are particularly interesting amongst the ivories; there is the famous Aylesbury enamelled horn, with the old baldrick of the fourteenth century; two lent by Lord Londesborough, of later style, and two very ancient of the Norwegian style of work, lent by Mr. Bush and Mr. Magniac.

We have thus endeavoured to sketch the contents of the exhibition, which as yet are not systematically arranged, and proportionately difficult to see and describe, but, as the exhibition will now be opened to the public, a more perfect acquaintance with it may be got from a visit, and this we heartily recommend to all lovers of good art-work.

MR. ARTHUR KENNARD, son of Mr. Kennard, M.P., met with a serious accident while riding in Rotten-row on Saturday last. Mr. Kennard was mounted on a favourite hunter, which stumbled and fell, fracturing his leg in a very serious manner, the bones protruding. The fractured limb was promptly and successfully set, and Mr. Kennard is progressing favourably towards convalescence.

A MOVEMENT has been commenced in East Lancashire to urge upon the Government the necessity of at once repealing the remaining duties of 5 per cent on cotton goods, and 3½ per cent on cotton yarns imported from this district into British India, with the view to create an improved trade, and thereby alleviate the vast distress and suffering now endured by thousands of factory operatives.

THE MARINE OFFICERS' TRAINING-SHIP THE WORCESTER.—The success of the Conway having been adequately established in the Mersey, it became almost inevitable that some similar movement should be set afoot, or rather abated, in the interest of the mercantile marine of London. For this purpose a meeting was convened last September, at which most of the leading shipowners and merchants were invited to attend, that a subscription might be opened for the institution of a training-ship in the Thames. The activity of the committee, and the unflinching perseverance of its honorary secretary, W. M. Bullivant, Esq., soon met with considerable success, and not only was a sum of money subscribed sufficient to cover the first necessary outlay, but their application to the Admiralty was acceded to by the free gift of H.M.S. Worcester. In speaking of the Worcester as a "training-ship," it is necessary to observe that she is intended as a naval school for that class of boys who, choosing the sea for a profession, are at present sent to public or private schools where they learn nothing which has a direct and immediate bearing upon their intended calling. The instruction on board the Worcester will, we believe, embrace what is termed a liberal education with the specific and prominent addition of navigation and nautical training. The ship as presented by the Admiralty was left unrigged and with only her lower masts standing. But the committee have received permission to purchase the necessary rigging at the rate of "old stores," so that the Worcester is now under process of complete fitting, and, having been moored in the river off Blackwall, will soon be ready for inspection. Meantime it is incumbent upon all those who are engaged in mercantile pursuits, and especially in such as are connected with navigation, to give the committee the benefit of their entire support.

LAW AND CRIME.

A CRIME of the character known as military murder was committed at Brighton on Sunday last. The sentry on guard at the barracks deliberately shot a comrade passing with others. The wounded man died almost instantly. The investigation into the supposed cause of this outrage reveals a curious state of things in the 18th Hussars, to which the murderer and his victim belonged. It is said that the men have been in the habit of holding sham courts-martial upon each other, and of sentencing each other to be flogged, and that the unfortunates who were condemned to this torture were obliged to submit to it. In this way the assassin had been forced to undergo eighteen lashes for some offence alleged by the man whom he afterwards shot; and this same man, upon some other ground of difference, had threatened him with "another court-martial." Partly in revenge for the past, partly in fear of the future, the murderer adopted his savage course. Had he killed the fellow while resisting the illegal sentence, or even while smarting under its infliction, his punishment might have been comparatively lenient. As it is, and although, as he states, the deceased and the other men were always "at him," driving him to desperation, his crime is unmitigated murder. But we must hope that the public will not rest satisfied with hanging this poor wretch out of the way. What can the officers of the 18th have been about to permit the men under their command to usurp the functions of a judicial court and to inflict severe corporal punishment at their own will? What does the nation pay these gorgeous and privileged gentlemen for, if not to govern properly the men under their command? How, in a well-conducted regiment, would it be possible for the men to be so left to themselves as to be able not only to carry out a kind of serious judge and jury club based upon the worst possible model, but actually to enforce sentences of flogging to the extent of eighteen lashes? Where were the non-commissioned officers while these pranks were being carried on?

The case of "Cox and others v. the Lord Mayor and Corporation of London" is one of the highest interest and importance with respect to the customs of the City. We reported the facts some months since, but the decision has only just been delivered, and we therefore give a brief outline of the case. A plaintiff, not a denizen of the City, sued a defendant, also out of the jurisdiction of the Court of the Lord Mayor of London. The defendant had money in the hands of Messrs. Cox and Greenwood, army-agents, who carry on business at Charing-cross, also out of the City. The plaintiff obtained an attachment against Cox and Co. in respect to the money so held by them, and served one of the partners upon his passing within Temple-bar. Hence the present action, the title of which we have already given. It was brought to determine the question whether, in a matter between strangers, the Lord Mayor's Court could exercise such a jurisdiction as that claimed by the before-mentioned attachment. The defendants maintained that long custom and the constitution of their court warranted such a proceeding. The Judges (of the Exchequer) have certainly used no undue haste in forming their opinion, which was only delivered on Tuesday last, and was in favour of the plaintiffs. The Lord Chief Baron said that it was only necessary to state such a custom in order to show its invalidity, because it was repugnant to the rules which govern the ordinary jurisdiction of a local court.

Several robberies have been recently committed by thieves whose plan appears to be to look out for open windows leading on to front or back gardens. One of the fraternity watches his opportunity and enters the premises, seizing such booty as he can conveniently carry off. Coats appear to be the chief object of this depredation, next, of course, to articles of plate and jewellery. When pursued the thief throws away his prey, one article at a time, to disembarass himself and delay those in chase. The suburban districts appear to be the places in which this game is chiefly carried on. Two of the vagabonds have been brought before the police within the last week on separate charges of this description.

The keeper of a booth at a fair, in which he exhibited a kind of dramatic performance, was fined by the local magistrates of Stratford, Essex, for an infringement of the statute rendering necessary a licence for such performances in any "house, room, or tenement." He appealed to the Court of Exchequer, which reversed the decision upon the ground that a "tenement" meant something fixed or permanent, and "not what the landlord of the ground might distract for rent."

In the matter of the Lambeth tramway, the prosecution has consented to enter a *nolle prosequi* or stay of proceedings against the vestrymen, on condition of their not offering any obstacle to the removal of the rails. The verdict against Mr. Train will therefore, it appears, stand, as on his part it has not been appealed against.

The Adelphi Theatre appears to be in the unenviable position of a house divided against itself. Messrs. Boucicault and Webster have come into Chancery as adverse litigants. Mr. Boucicault wishes to play his own pieces, for obvious reasons, and for reasons equally obvious Mr. Webster desires a variety in the performances. But, by agreement between these parties, Mr. Boucicault is to command the stage and Mr. Webster the "front of the house." Mr. Webster advertises in the playbills a new drama not by Mr. Boucicault. Mr. Boucicault thereupon moves for an injunction to restrain the publication of such announcement without his consent, and an interim order has been granted by Vice-Chancellor Wood to that effect.

The Law Institute of New York have taken steps towards a debate upon the propriety of expelling Mr. Edwin James from the Bar of that city. Mr. James has thereupon collected a meeting, which he has addressed in his own vindication. If his story is to be believed, he is a sadly-persecuted man. He wept during his own recital of his griefs. In New York perhaps his story may go down. Here, no one can feel the slightest interest as to whether American barristers choose to admit him as a confederate or not. But, as Mr. Edwin James has chosen to brand the entire press of England with falsehood in assigning valid reasons for his absconding from his native land, if he be really able to disprove their deliberate allegations, his best course might be to return for the purpose, instead of hurling a challenge from the other side of the Atlantic. Why did he go away at all?

MIDDLESEX SESSIONS.

DOMESTIC ROBBERY.—Hannah King, 23, was indicted for stealing a coat and hat-brush, the property of James Howard, and two umbrellas, value 25s., the property of William Squire.

The prisoner had carried on a very artful and somewhat extensive scheme of plunder. She went to gentlemen's houses and said she had been sent for respecting a situation. Drawing the servant off her guard by asking her to take a message upstairs, she took the opportunity of packing up her hand anything to take. She would then say that there was some mistake about it and go away.

The jury found her "Guilty." The police-constable in the case said there were many other cases, and she had been identified at the station by five persons, besides which the police had received a good deal of information about her.

The learned Judge said she was evidently a dangerous character. This was not an isolated case of an offence committed through want of anything of that sort; it was a regular and methodical plan of robbery. The sentence upon her was eighteen months' hard labour.

HOUSEBREAKERS.—Henry Baker and John Morris were indicted for being found by night, without lawful excuse, in the possession of a centrepiece, a crowbar, and other implements used in housebreaking. They were found guilty, and sentenced—both being well-known and convicted thieves—Baker to three years' penal servitude and Morris to two years' hard labour.

POLICE.

AWKWARD A VENTURE of a FOT.—Abraham Law, thirty-one, cattle salesman, of Elm Villas, Upper Clapton, was charged under the following extraordinary circumstances:

William Shooks, butler to Mr. Gregson, of 32, Upper Harley-street, said—A little after two in the morning I heard a noise in the kitchen, and found a man there. I looked him in the room whilst I went to ring the alarm bell. Whilst I was doing this he broke open the door, and came into the passage. I attacked him, and struck him a blow on the nose with my fist. He followed me into the pantry, and as we got in there I took up the poker and struck him over the head with it several times. He grappled with me, and got me down, and said he would cut my throat if I did not allow him to carry away the property. At this time two female servants came down, and seeing me struggling with the prisoner, went to the street door and called "Police" and "Murder." The man still struggled with me, and, after throwing me, rushed out at the door. I was so smothered in blood that I could not identify the man, but the prisoner is very much like him.

Cross-examined: The man seemed quite sober, and fought very hard. When I struck him the blood flew out from his nose. When I struck him with the poker we were both in the dark. The house was entered from the skylight, about twenty feet high, from which they had taken the top off. It is over the kitchen. I cannot say how the man was dressed. I will not swear that the prisoner is the man I attacked.

Mr. Mansfield: Will you swear that the prisoner is not the man?—Witness: I will not swear that he is not the man.

Felix Sims, 349 D, deposed—A little after two that morning I heard "Murder" called. I ran as far as Cleveland-street, and saw the prisoner, and asked him where he had come from, in reply to which he said from Portland-place. His face was bleeding, and I told him he must come with me to Harley-street. When we got there, the moment the cook saw him she said "That is the man." The sergeant asked the butler if he (the prisoner) was the man, when he said he was positive.

Mr. Lewis addressed his worship for the prisoner, and called Lane, 216 D, who swore positively as to having seen the prisoner about one o'clock that same morning sitting asleep, in a state of intoxication. He woke him up and made him move on. He then had the bruises on his face, and the blood was flowing from them. (The bruises appeared fresh done, as though from a person falling down in a state of intoxication, and the face coming in contact with gravel).

Mr. Mansfield discharged the prisoner, and remarking upon the case, said that whatever expense or inconvenience he might have been put to, he had brought it upon himself through his drunkenness.

MONEY OPERATIONS OF THE WEEK.

THE continued withdrawal of gold from the Bank of England for transmission to the City and Bank of America, and the decline in the value of the dollar to 154.40, have produced a marked reaction in the money market. National securities and a slight decline in the quotations. Consols for Money have marked 91 1/2 ex div., and 92 1/2 for July 10. Bank of England has been 134 to 136; India 124 to 126; Reduced and New Three per Cent has been 101 1/2 to 102 1/2; India Five per Cent, 107 1/2; India Four per Cent, 106 1/2; India Three per Cent, 105 1/2; India Two per Cent, 104 1/2; India One per Cent, 103 1/2; India Half per Cent, 102 1/2; India Quarter per Cent, 101 1/2; India Eighth per Cent, 100 1/2; India Sixteenth per Cent, 99 1/2; India Thirty-second per Cent, 98 1/2; India Sixty-fourth per Cent, 97 1/2; India One-hundredth per Cent, 96 1/2; India Two-hundredth per Cent, 95 1/2; India Four-hundredth per Cent, 94 1/2; India Eight-hundredth per Cent, 93 1/2; India One-thousandth per Cent, 92 1/2; India Two-thousandth per Cent, 91 1/2; India Four-thousandth per Cent, 90 1/2; India Eight-thousandth per Cent, 89 1/2; India One-hundredth per Cent, 88 1/2; India Two-hundredth per Cent, 87 1/2; India Four-hundredth per Cent, 86 1/2; India Eight-hundredth per Cent, 85 1/2; India One-thousandth per Cent, 84 1/2; India Two-thousandth per Cent, 83 1/2; 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